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THE NEWSPAPER FOR CHATHAM, GILLINGHAM, ROCHESTER, STROOD, RAINHAM & DISTRICT



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Picture: JOHN NAPOLI

STIMSON'S HEADACHE

GILLINGHAM have a tough assignment in the North East this weekend as they visit Darlington hoping to post their first win of the season.

Mark Stimson's side have endured a difficult start to life in League Two with one point from two matches. The team were booted off the pitch by fans at Priestfield after Saturday's lacklustre 1-0 defeat to Luton Town.

To make matters worse, Stimson revealed after the match that he had a disruptive player in his squad who threatened to upset its unity.

It will be a depressing echo for fans of last season, which was hampered by a now-departed clique in the squad whom Stimson felt did not share his plans for the club.

FULL STORY ON PAGE 47

EXCLUSIVE

■ BY SIMON ROBINSON

FRONTLINE police officers in Medway were assaulted more than 160 times in the last two years – equating to one attack every four days.

The Kent police figures, obtained using the Freedom of Information Act, show 168 'assaults without injury' were filed between April 2006 and March of this year.

The number of more serious attacks on Medway officers during the same period is not collated, but could bring the frequency of assaults up to one every three days.

Across Kent, nearly 2,000 officers have encountered violent situations with offenders in the past two financial years, at a rate of almost two attacks per day.

Officers in Mid-Kent were the most attacked, suffering 347 incidents. West Kent officers were assaulted the fewest times, but still had to endure 190 assaults.

The year-on-year figures paint a more positive picture, with the number of assaults dropping from 763 in 2006/07 to 634 in 2007/08, a 16 per cent reduction.

Assistant Chief Constable Gary Beaumont said: "The safety of the public and our officers is paramount. Our officers receive specific training to enable them to deal with public order incidents."

"We do not tolerate attacks on police officers and anyone found committing these offences will be arrested and brought before the courts."

Kent police chiefs also said body cameras introduced throughout the force were already helping to secure prosecutions against those who attack their officers.

In May, 45-year-old Richard Skeates, of Graves-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

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2 Julie Maddocks meets the cast of Annie in Folkestone. See the leisure channel @ yourkenttv.co.uk



3 The latest national and international news – plus our local content. See the news channel @ yourkenttv.co.uk

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Regeneration plans 'will not be crunched'

■ BY SIMON ROBINSON

COUNCIL chiefs have rejected claims that the credit crunch will leave regeneration plans for Chatham facing a multi-million pound shortfall.

The Liberal Democrats raised fears about the ongoing work to regenerate the town centre, saying similar plans adopted by Brighton and Hove council had ground to a halt after cash-strapped financiers pulled out of a £300 million deal.

Medway council's Lib Dem deputy group leader Cllr Andy Stamp said: "We must be realistic and not in denial about the impact of the credit crunch on the council's vision for Chatham."

"We should have measures in place to ensure the regeneration doesn't grind to a halt. Yet the council appears to be adopting the 'hold tight and hope for the best' strategy."

But council leader Cllr Rodney Chambers said the Chatham plans were well placed to weather the economic storms.

He said: "The downturn is a cyclical part of the economy and occurs as



OPTIMISTIC: Cllr Rodney Chambers

a natural part of a free market. The Medway Regeneration will take 20 years and we can expect to experience two downturns in that time – with the inevitable booms following."

"Present conditions are expected to last three to five years, after which the economy will see an uplift."

"In Medway we will be putting in the infrastructure ready for when the market recovers."

"Our activities during the downturn will be focused on road, rail and general transport improvements, preparing sites for development, securing planning permissions."

Race for Life cash appeal

WOMEN who took part in this year's Race for Life in Gillingham are being urged to summon the energy for one last dash – for cash.

Organisers at Cancer Research UK are concerned that not all participants who walked, jogged or ran the 5k course at Capstone Farm Country Park have returned their sponsorship money.

They are appealing to those whose cash has still not materialised to make a special effort to ensure that the £1.4million target set for all Kent events can be achieved.

Nationally, one-in-three women who participated in the Race for Life series last year failed to raise funds for Cancer Research UK.

Spokeswoman Natasha Etienne said the 2008 Race for Life Kent events were a tremendous success, with 20,000 women taking part.

But she warned: "Regrettably, it is not unusual for charity events to suffer from a minority of participants failing to raise funds. Yet if one-in-three don't send back their sponsorship money, our ability to support world class science is affected."

"Women who got people to sign their sponsor forms should show their medal with pride and chase those who pledged cash."

For information on how to return sponsorship money, or to make a donation, visit www.raceforlife.org or call 0871 641 228.

yourmedway

NEWS IN BRIEF

Fears for river jumper after fruitless search

A SEARCH operation was launched late on Friday night after a man was seen plunging into the River Medway.

A St Mary's Island security guard raised the alarm at 11.30pm after seeing the man remove his T-shirt before jumping into the river.

The coastguard was scrambled and spent hours motoring up and down the treacherous stretch of river looking for the man.

No sign of him was found and he is feared to have drowned.

These boots are made for wanging at fete

WELLY wanging is among the obscure events on offer at Cobham village fete on Bank Holiday Monday.

The free event, on playing fields behind The Street, will also include competitions, raffles and stalls, with activities planned from 1pm to 5pm.

Donations of jumble, books and bric-a-brac can be left at Cobham Cricket Club's pavilion on Saturday from 10am to 4pm. For more information, call 01474 814201.

Expert help tracing your family tree

ANYONE interested in finding out about their family history can call on the services of experts.

The Kent Family History Society, Friends of the Medway Archives and the Local Studies Centre are offering to help research family trees.

Gillingham library will host an event on the first Saturday of each month, between 1pm and 4pm, starting on Saturday, September 6.

Places must be booked. For more details, call 01634 337340.

Crying over spilt milk

SPILT milk after a lorry overturned in a crash caused severe traffic delays on the M2 on Friday morning.

Police said a refrigerated Iveco truck carrying the milk collided another vehicle on the coastbound carriageway, between junctions two and three, near Medway Bridge at 4.45am.

The lorry flipped on its side and milk was spilled across the carriageway. The driver was taken to Medway Hospital with minor injuries.

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Five years for driver who killed teenagers

I will never forgive him says mother

■ BY KEVIN O'SULLIVAN

A FORMER soldier who was "mucking about" before losing control of his car and killing two teenage passengers was jailed for five years on Friday.

Shaun Waters, 22, of Magpie Hall Road, Chatham, smashed head-on into a lorry after dangerously "snaking" left and right in his mum's Ford Escort on the A20 near Lenham in February last year.

Maidstone Crown Court heard that the ex-soldier caused the smash that killed Daisy Washington, 14, from Ashford, and Joseph Bunce, 17, from Harrietsham.

Judge James O'Mahony told a packed court room how not even a sentence of 100 years could bring back the victims.

He said: "I am desperately sorry for the family and friends and loved ones of the deceased.

"It has caused them suffering and desperate agony. I am very conscious that for some perhaps naturally and understandably that no



VICTIMS: Joseph Bunce (left) and Daisy Washington were killed by the dangerous driving of Shaun Waters (right)

sentence imposed would be too high. If I were to pass sentence of 100 years, that would not restore those lost lives."

Judge O'Mahony said a witness described Waters as driving like a "total idiot" before he mounted a verge and veered into the oncoming HGV.

"You were driving like an idiot, mucking about. First you moved the car off a straight line. Then you carried a series of definite, snaking moves."

The court heard how sport-loving Daisy's schoolfriend Elena Cowell, 15, sustained a fractured skull, broken arm, leg, jaw, cheekbone and nose in the crash. Waters was also hurt, but incredibly his five-year-old stepdaughter –

whom he had picked up from primary school with the three teenagers – escaped unhurt. She was the only passenger wearing a seatbelt.

Judge O'Mahony said: "Those who died were not wearing seatbelts. Elena was very seriously injured. It was a horrible accident and you were responsible. You have to pay the price."

Waters denied two charges of causing death by dangerous driving, but was convicted last month.

Daisy's mum, Karen, 41, said the sentence would never have been enough. "Daisy was such a lovely girl – she was always joking around," she said. "I will never, ever forgive him."

Waters, who served with the Royal Engineers based in Gillingham, was also banned from driving for seven years.



ON HOLIDAY: Medway beauty Kelly Brook

Kelly enjoys a Riviera break with the girls

GLAMOUR girl Kelly Brook has jetted off to the French Riviera after calling time on her relationship with Hollywood hunk Billy Zane.

The Rochester-born beauty's mum Sandra Parsons said Kelly was relaxing in St Tropez after dumping Titanic star Billy, 42, for the second time.

Speaking to the Daily Express on Thursday, Sandra said: "She isn't here. She is holidaying with some girlie friends.

"Yes, she has split from Billy Zane. I think this time it really is for good. But there is no need to worry about her. She is feeling fine and doing well."

The couple temporarily split in April, with Strictly Come Dancing star Kelly, 28, reportedly confiding in friends that she was too young to settle down.

The pair patched things up a week later but are now believed to have split for good.

They own a luxury farmhouse in the village of Graffy Green, near Maidstone.

Scirocco on a Moroccan roll

TWO health workers are gearing up for a mammoth charity drive next month when they will motor from Medway to Morocco in just 12 days.

Rehab assistant Glen Place, from Burham, and co-driver Andy Ward, from Nottingham, have kitted out a 20-year-old VW Scirocco for the challenge – allowing them to aptly dub the 4,000 mile trip Scirocco 2 Morocco.

The pair will set off for Africa from the Bluebell Hill picnic area at 5pm on Saturday, September 6.

Glen said: "A lot of people have asked, 'Why Morocco?'

"Well, it just happens to rhyme with Scirocco, so the name sort of took care of itself."

"We have been hard at work preparing the car for the long journey ahead and have even had a trailer made out of another VW



DRIVEN MEN: Glen Place and Andy Ward

Scirocco to help us carry the supplies we will need to accomplish our challenge."

They hope to raise £1,500 for Macmillan Cancer Support, Leukaemia Research and the Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire Air Ambulance.

For more details, visit www.scirocco2morocco.blogspot.com.

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See how the charity drive came about. Search 'Morocco'

Police body cameras put offenders in frame

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

end became the first man to be convicted using such technology, receiving an 11-year sentence for hitting a policeman across the head with a samurai sword.

Chief Superintendent Paul Brandon, area commander for North

Kent, said: "The body-worn video technology we are now using is a valuable tool for policing in the 21st century, especially when we can show a court and jury first-hand footage of the incident or the aftermath and impact on the victim, as we saw in this case."

After a successful trial in North Kent, every officer on core response now has a body camera available. A further 80 will be introduced in the coming weeks to officers working in neighbourhood teams, training and development units including probationary units and tactical teams.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Primary pupils excel in English and maths

RECENT figures indicate that primary school-leavers across the county have yet again achieved their best-ever results in English and mathematics, improving in both subjects at level 4 – the target pupils of this age are expected to obtain before moving to secondary school.

Every year for the past five years the proportion of pupils achieving the expected level has risen in mathematics. This year, the difference between the county and national figure has narrowed significantly with Kent schools improving by 2.5 per cent, compared to the one per cent national rise.

In English, overall results mirror national outcomes and is the best-ever result. Improvements in reading are particularly good, with an increase of 2.6 per cent, another 405 pupils, achieving the expected level compared to a national rise of two per cent.

There have also been higher levels of achievement in reading, mirroring the successes of children in both the early years and Key Stage One.

University expert in call to change drug use laws

A SENIOR academic has hit out at the Government's drug policy saying the UK should learn from countries which adopt a different approach to the problem.

Dr Alex Stevens, who heads the European Institute of Social Services at the University of Kent in Canterbury, believes they should be decriminalised, as convicting users wasted police time and money.

He said: "Nobody is saying that dangerous drugs should be sold legally to anyone who wants them at whatever price.

"But we should learn from other countries that have reduced the criminal penalties that they use for drug users without increasing drug problems."

Railway guards and pay row could end in strike

TWO separate disputes about the role of guards on new trains and a pay offer could see the county's railways grind to a halt.

Results of ballots on strike action starting next week will be known in September, said Bob Crow, general secretary of the Rail, Maritime and Transport union.

Southeastern urged workers to vote in favour of the "good" 4.3 per cent pay deal, and said RMT objections to changed roles for guards came as a "disappointment".

But union representatives remain unconvinced. About 750 retail and engineering workers will be balloted for strikes over the pay offer, the RMT said, while up to 500 guards, drivers and customer service staff are set to vote on the safety role of guards on trains.

City landmark unfurls Olympics countdown

■ BY SIMON ROBINSON

A COMMEMORATIVE Olympic flag will be unfurled at Rochester Castle this weekend to mark the official countdown to London 2012.

The flag will start its journey at Chatham Historic Dockyard at 2pm on Sunday, where it will be taken along the River Medway by two Army boat crews.

Medway's young elite athletes and 1964 Olympic race walking silver medallist Paul Nihill will take charge of the flag at the jetty near Rochester Castle at 2.10pm, before handing it over to Mayor of Medway David Carr.

Cllr Carr will then raise the flag at precisely 14.33 – with the time matching the 1,433 days until the start of the London Games.

Similar events will take place across the country, led by the official handover of the Olympic flag from the Mayor of Beijing to Mayor of London Boris Johnson.

Preparation

The 2012 flag will enter the country at Dover – carried by rowing star Hannah Moon, who is looking to make her mark on the Games in four years' time – before heading up through Kent to the capital.

Thousands of people are expected to turn out at events scheduled at locations across Kent, including Maidstone, Ramsgate and Herne Bay.

Stars including past and future Olympians are set to be on hand to commemorate the event which is the first major highlight of the UK's preparation for the global Games.

Street parties, fireworks, sports events and other celebrations are also being organised in many towns and villages.

Celebrations planned for Ramsgate are tied



A PLACE IN HISTORY: The 1,433-day countdown to the 2012 London Games will be marked by the unfurling of an Olympic flag at Rochester's Norman castle at 14.33 on Sunday, to coincide with other commemorations nationally

in with the opening of the new athletics track at the Marlowe Academy – which could host teams training sessions in the run-up to the 2012 event itself.

A family fun run will take place and there will be demonstrations of athletic skills from nationally recognised performers.

Herne Bay has been selected as a site for one of the large screens which will show BBC coverage of the handover.

Ian Wynne, 30, from Tonbridge – kayak bronze medallist at the Athens Games in 2004 – will be taking part and other events include a Tour d'Herne Bay cycle ride.

The flag will arrive by river in Maidstone which will also host live music and a parade while Charlton Athletic FC will be assisting in celebrations in Tunbridge Wells.

Free swimming to commemorate Britain's success in the Beijing pool will be held at leisure centres in Canterbury, Thanet, Ashford, Swale and Dover.

Highlights

Kent County Council's community services chief, Mike Hill, said: "The recent spectacular opening of the Beijing Games really heightened the excitement for London's Olympics and the handover day is an excellent way for us in Kent to celebrate and enjoy the atmosphere of being the host country."

"There really is something for everyone on Sunday and it highlights how the Olympics are an opportunity to feel proud of what we have to show the world."

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Training facilities to reap Olympic reward

THERE are 36 venues in the county hoping to cash-in on the 2012 Olympic Games in London by providing training facilities for teams around the world.

Details of the sites are being circulated to national Olympic committees with a hope they will play host to teams in the years leading up to the Games.

Our sports reporter David Pritchard paid a visit to one of the site's on the shortlist, the trampolining centre in Gillingham, to find out how it got on the list and what it hopes to achieve.

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JUST THE TICKET: Taxi drivers are pleased with the compromise which will see the return of waiting-bays

Cabbies settle dispute over loss of ranks

■ BY SIMON ROBINSON

A LONG-RUNNING parking dispute between taxi drivers and regeneration chiefs has been settled – with more than 30 spaces being re-opened in Chatham town centre.

The compromise will see Medway's taxi drivers return to the waiting bays in the Brook, helping to alleviate the congestion around the Military Road access point.

Ian Walton, vice-chairman of Medway Licensed Taxi Drivers' Association, said: "This is the first time anyone has wanted to listen to us – for too long the taxi drivers have been ignored as an insignificant voice in Medway."

"On behalf of the taxi drivers we are very pleased with the Medway regeneration officials. The proposals outlined appear to be workable and we will liaise with officials to work in the best interest of all taxi drivers in Medway. The regeneration of Chatham is important to everyone but more so vital to our livelihoods."

During negotiations Medway Renaissance bosses also presented the taxi drivers with outline plans for the new bus station, including the replacement taxi rank.

Association committee member Sean Riley said: "The construction and completion of the new bus station will take time and all we wanted was an intermediate solution that will minimise congestion and be safe for customers."

"This has never happened before. We have finally been listened to and we hope this continues."

Association members paid tribute to Chatham and Aylesford MP Jonathan Shaw for his work in mediating between both sides.

Mr Shaw said: "Taxi drivers are important to the local transport network and they felt they were being treated with contempt and were having changes enforced on their business without the appropriate levels of consultation."

"With more than 500 drivers in the Medway towns, no one knows the local roads and streets better than the taxi drivers."

Mr Shaw added: "I am pleased Medway Renaissance and the taxi trade have worked together to resolve the matter."

"I am sure this will be the start of a very productive relationship that will benefit everyone who uses the road network."

Behind the scenes at pet hospital

ANIMAL-LOVERS are being given the chance to gain a behind-the-scenes look at Gillingham PDSA PetAid hospital on Saturday.

Visitors will be able to meet the centre's veterinary team and take guided tours of the Campus Way hospital.

Senior veterinary surgeon Paul Walding said: "If you are interested in veterinary work or simply curious to see how a PetAid hospital works, then come along to our open day and find out more about it."

"As well as touring our facilities and meeting staff, visitors can learn more about the work of the charity, caring for

pets and career information. We are also preparing a range of stalls, activities and competitions, so people of all ages have plenty to enjoy."

Veterinary staff treat about 100 pets every day and perform more than 50,000 treatments each year, ranging from major surgery to X-rays and in-patient care. The hospital has six consulting rooms, two operating theatres, a waiting room, dispensary and recovery kennels for cats and dogs.

The facility costs more than £750,000 a year to run, all of which is raised through charitable donations. For further details on the open day call 01634 376347.

yourmedway NEWS IN BRIEF

Air ambulance winner's delight at £25,000 prize

A WOMAN from Chatham has scooped £25,000 in the first Kent Air Ambulance Superdraw.

Daphne Hanson visited the service's HQ in Marden this week to pick up her jackpot cheque. She said: "This is wonderful news. Not only will it give us the opportunity to do many things that we otherwise wouldn't be able to, but it will also give us the chance to make donations to our favourite charities."

KAAs lottery manager, Lynne Mitchell, said: "One of the most pleasurable parts of my job is ringing our lucky weekly winner to tell them that they have won £1,000, so to be able to tell Mrs Hanson she had won £25,000 was phenomenal. The fact that she was also one of our first members of the regular lottery makes it even more rewarding."

The air ambulance lotteries raise valuable funds to ensure the lifesaving helicopter remains operational.

To become a member of the Kent Air Ambulance Lottery call 01622 833833 or visit www.kentairambulance.co.uk.

Fuel for free for Zena in Invicta's petrol giveaway

LUCKY listener Zena Abbott scooped £25 of petrol on Friday in Invicta FM's latest free fuel giveaway.

Zena, from Rochester, was the first of 20 motorists to win a free fill up, reaching Morrisons' Maidstone petrol station just minutes after DJ Stephen Sullivan revealed it to be the giveaway location.

The location had been kept a secret until it was announced on air.

Stephen said: "It was great to see Invicta FM's listeners getting so excited about receiving their free fuel."

Display marks 150 years of Strood's rail history

A FREE exhibition marking the 150th anniversary of the Strood to Canterbury railway is now open.

Pictures and information of the historic line are on display at the Medway Archives and Local Studies Centre in the Clock Tower Building at the Civic Centre, Strood. The exhibition is open every day except Wednesday and Sunday until Saturday September 13.

A talk entitled Railways of Rochester will be given by Bob Ratcliffe at the archives centre on Tuesday from 7.30pm. Tickets cost £4. For more information and to book a seat call 01634 332714.



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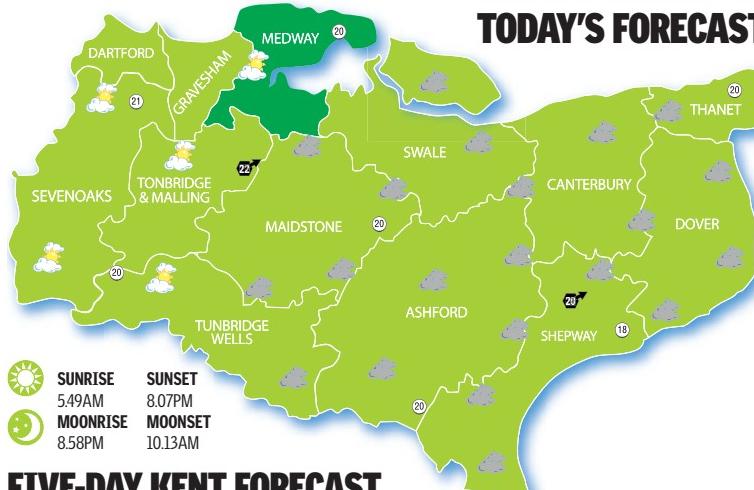
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	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
Ashford	20°C	20°C	20°C	19°C	20°C
Canterbury	19°C	21°C	20°C	19°C	20°C
Chatham	19°C	20°C	20°C	19°C	19°C
Dartford	20°C	22°C	21°C	21°C	21°C
Dover	17°C	19°C	18°C	18°C	18°C
Faversham	19°C	20°C	20°C	19°C	19°C
Folkestone	17°C	19°C	18°C	18°C	18°C
Gillingham	19°C	20°C	20°C	19°C	19°C

	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
Gravesend	20°C	22°C	21°C	21°C	21°C
Maidstone	20°C	21°C	21°C	21°C	21°C
Ramsgate	19°C	21°C	20°C	19°C	20°C
Rochester	19°C	20°C	20°C	19°C	19°C
Sevenoaks	18°C	19°C	18°C	18°C	19°C
Sittingbourne	19°C	20°C	20°C	19°C	19°C
Tonbridge	19°C	20°C	20°C	20°C	20°C
Tun Wells	19°C	20°C	20°C	20°C	20°C

AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Amsterdam	17°C	Madrid	31°C
Athens	32°C	New York	27°C
Barcelona	29°C	Paris	24°C
Beijing	27°C	Rome	28°C
Bombay	29°C	Sydney	13°C
Cape Town	22°C	Tenerife	26°C
Cardiff	17°C	Tokyo	28°C
Gibraltar	23°C	Vancouver	25°C
Hong Kong	34°C	Warsaw	23°C
Las Palmas	26°C	Wellington	9°C

WEEKEND HIGH TIDES

Chatham	Saturday	4:19pm	6.1m
	Sunday	4:56pm	6.0m
Dover	Saturday	2:33pm	6.7m
	Sunday	3:10pm	6.6m
Dungeness	Saturday	2:34pm	8.0m
	Sunday	3:14pm	7.8m
Ramsgate	Saturday	3:03pm	5.1m
	Sunday	3:40pm	5.0m
Sheerness	Saturday	4:09pm	5.8m
	Sunday	4:46pm	5.7m
Whitstable	Saturday	4:04pm	5.4m
	Sunday	4:42pm	5.3m



MOST A-PEELING: Karen and Julie, the biking bananas

Slippery challenge for banana sisters

SISTERS Karen and Julie Dockray are hoping to raise £750 for charity next month by completing a gruelling 25-mile bike ride dressed as bananas.

The charitable pair will dress up on Sunday September 14 in aid of Cerebral Palsy Care, starting and finishing at the charity's Cliffe Woods base.

Karen said: "The route takes you us over the Hoo Peninsula so will give a lot of people the chance to laugh at us."

"This really is a slippery challenge that needs your support. "We know we are bonkers but we really want to raise loads of money for the fantastic charity CPC."

CPC provides special needs services and educational support to people of all ages who suffer from a wide range of disabilities.

To sponsor the sisters visit www.justgiving.com/bonkingbananas.

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yourlocalinterview

QUESTION & ANSWER

LUCIE POLLARD



Q & A

The director of learning and quality at the University of Greenwich at Medway's School of Science tells **Simon Robinson** about the advantages of looking local when it comes to choosing a place to study

Q Can you tell us a little about yourself?

A I have been with the University of Greenwich for 10 years, having started as a lecturer in nutrition. I am now the director of learning and quality for the School of Science. During my time at Medway, I have seen the campus grow out of all recognition to what it is today – a fantastic facility.

Q What are your responsibilities at the University of Greenwich at Medway?

A Apart from lecturing, one of my responsibilities is overseeing the admissions process for the School of Science. Looking through the UCAS forms of students who want to come and study here as well those who enter the system via clearing can be a very hectic job, but something I really enjoy.

Q What's the best part of your job?

A Lecturing and teaching is why I came here and remains the best aspect of my job. I love being with students who are genuinely interested in the same subjects as me. I like hearing their views and answering questions.

It's great to be in a job where you are dealing with like-minded people. Students have changed in their aims over recent years. When I started we were seeing people interested purely in the subject whereas now they want to study something with more of a specific career in mind. At the School of Science we

have a good track record of students going into employment or continuing their studies following the completion of degrees. We have strong links with relevant companies and organisations in our field and believe we produce professionally ready graduates, who are very employable.

Q And the worst parts of the job?

A Paperwork – administration is a huge part of my job and it has to be done but it is not always enjoyable.

Q Why should potential students consider the University of Greenwich at Medway?

A The Medway campus – dating from 1903 – has benefited from £50 million in investment since 1996. Extensive new laboratories and research facilities have been opened and the university has linked with other educational establishments to develop the campus as a major higher education centre in the Medway region known collectively as the Universities at Medway.

The facilities now available at the Medway campus are second to none. From the Drill Hall Library through to the newly converted Pilkington Building, we are very fortunate to be able to offer students an amazing place to study and interact.

Greenwich also has a great reputation for student support and is a very welcoming place to come and study with lots to see and get involved with. The standard of teaching is

excellent as are the laboratories, where students can pick up practical experience. From a basic economic point of view, the university has some of the lowest tuition fees in the country.

Q What are your top tips for anyone going through the clearing process?

A Don't panic is always the best advice. If your grades aren't what you had hoped for, it doesn't mean you can't go to university and your final destination doesn't have to be sorted out on the spot.

Take time to think about where you want to go and where you want to be in three years' time. Get along to open days and find out as much information as you can about prospective courses – do they contain the elements you are interested in?

You don't have to take the first offer you are made. Think about other aspects of university life such as the atmosphere and the facilities as well as perhaps the clubs and organisations run by the students. Mature and part-time students should also think about clearing as it's not too late for them to get a place for this September.

Q What do you like doing when you are not working?

A I like to relax with a good book away from work or spend time with my family. Also, as my job can involve a lot of sitting around, I like to get out about and do something energetic.

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Julie Maddocks took to Bewl Water to try her hand at a host of watersports. Search 'Bewl'



Get your taste buds tingling with an array of treats at the Faversham Food Festival. Search 'food'

EDITOR'S CHOICE

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Kent regiments in anti-Taliban action



FRONT LINE: British soldiers working at Roshan Tower

Reporter Jamie McGinnes has flown out to Afghanistan to join our troops on the front line in the fight against the Taliban. In the second of his exclusive reports from Helmand Province, he brings us news of renewed hostilities

HUNDREDS of soldiers have been involved in an operation to root out the Taliban near the key town of Musa Qala.

Troops from the Canterbury-based Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders (5 Scots) and the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment (PWRR), Kent's county regiment, were among 800 soldiers to take part in the fighting, which began on Thursday.

Major Ben Baker, 35, from 2PWRR, is in charge of Forward Operating Base Edinburgh, a desert fort seven kilometres from Musa Qala.

He said pushes to the north and south of the town were proving successful.

"It appears to be having quite a lot of success with Taliban killed and injured, people captured and equipment recovered," he said.

Maj Baker said the aim was to disrupt the insurgency.

"It is a deliberate operation to ensure the Taliban is put on the back foot. Whenever we face them head-on we win."

Local reports suggested on Thursday that at least 13 Taliban fighters were killed and a similar number injured.

Suicide vests, as well as ammunition and bomb-making equipment, were seized after



UNDER COVER: Jamie McGinnes (right) and troops sit out a mortar attack on FOB Edinburgh by the Taliban

compounds were searched.

About 300 troops from the Afghan National Army (ANA) spearheaded the advance to the south, supported by D Company of 5 Scots, the 2nd Battalion PWRR, a few reservists from 3PWRR, and men from the Royal Irish Regiment.

Mastiff armoured vehicles from 2 Scots were also on hand.

Insurgents attacked with rifles, machine-guns and RPGs (rocket-propelled grenades).

The garrison at Roshan Tower, a strategically crucial outpost overlooking the Musa Qala Wadi, helped guide in artillery fire and air strikes. Members of 2PWRR and a mortar section from 5 Scots are there. Paratroopers from

3 Para, along with Royal Engineers, made slow progress through booby-trapped Afghan compounds to the north. Bayonets were fixed as soldiers advanced through fields of shoulder-high crops.

Apache helicopters attacked enemy positions, while F-16 jets were called in for air strikes. Artillery at FOB Edinburgh and FOB Robinson, near Sangin, was also used, including the devastating Guided Missile Launch Rocket System (GMLRS).

Maj Baker said: "It has been relatively intense, with the whole of the battle group, north and south, and Roshan Tower in contact at the same time."

He said similar operations would "definitely" be carried out in the future.

Welcome by a sniper's bullet

WITHIN 20 minutes of arriving at Roshan Tower, a Taliban sniper attempted to kill me.

A loud crack broke the air as a bullet pinged just a metre over my head. It was a fitting welcome to one of the most heavily-attacked British positions in Helmand Province.

The key outpost, which overlooks the Musa Qala Wadi, has seen an upsurge in attacks in recent weeks.

The tower has a small garrison of men, including members of the 2nd Battalion the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment (2PWRR) and a mortar section from Canterbury-based Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders (5 Scots).

It has a commanding view of a vast swathe of countryside around the wadi and the strategically important town of Musa Qala, which was recaptured from the Taliban in December.

More than 150 mortar bombs are thought to have hit the base since June.

Somehow only one soldier, Lance Corporal Carvas Garraway, from 2PWRR, has been slightly injured, by shrapnel in the leg. The troops admit they have enjoyed more than their fair share of luck.

The increasing threat to the base meant that the Royal Engineers were part of a convoy sent there this week to strengthen its defences.

After setting off from FOB Edinburgh at first light, the troops reached Roshan Tower, about six kilometres away, at about 8.25am local time last Wednesday.

Twenty minutes later, my tour of the outpost by its platoon commander, Lieutenant Dave Thomas, 23, from Meopham, was cut short when the first shots of the day rang out.

Lt Thomas told me later that the shot had passed about a metre above our heads. The hidden sniper may have mistaken me for a dignitary because of my civilian clothes, he said.



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KICKING SUCCESS: Carla Jessup with her IKF belt

Fighting fit Carla wins kickboxing championship

WHEN Carla Jessup started getting into fights at school at the age of 12, her mother knew she had to do something.

But rather than ground the youngster or take away her pocket money, Helen Ingram did what few other mums would ever dream of – she ordered her daughter to take up kickboxing.

“I used to get into a lot of trouble and I was really horrible,” said Maidstone estate agent Carla, now 21.

“I was having fights at school all the time and I was always really angry and nasty to my mum.

■ BY STEVE KNIGHT

“She sent me to kickboxing to get rid of my aggression in a different way and I’m so grateful she did. I’m a lot nicer now.”

At the end of last month, former Maplesden Noakes pupil Carla flew to Orlando in Florida to compete in the International Kickboxing Federation’s World Classic event – and came home with the championship belt in the female bantamweight category.

She was one of ten girls to compete in Florida under the Total Kickboxing Organisation (TKO) banner, which has gyms in Chatham, Maidstone and Ashford.

All were hand-picked to travel by chief instructor Colin Payne, himself a fifth dan fighter.

Carla, from Kings Walk in Maidstone, said: “I don’t consider myself to be the best of the ten, but Colin trained us so hard and we were so fit for the competition that I think we all stood a good chance.

“It was a knockout tournament spread

over two days, so I had one fight the first day and two the second.

“I actually watched the girl I beat in the final earlier that day and was worried because she looked really good.”

As it turned out Carla beat Lisa Wells, from Beloit, Wisconsin, by a unanimous points decision.

It was a bad couple of days for the Americans who faced Carla, as she also saw off Stephanie Stafford, from Atlanta, Georgia, and April Simon, of Aeworth, Georgia, in preliminary bouts.

After weeks of intense training paid off with her title victory in the Sunshine State, Carla was allowed to unwind when she returned to Maidstone.

She said: “Colin told us to go and enjoy ourselves, so I did by eating and drinking too much, but I’m back training now.

“My aim now is to win a couple more fights and have a shot at another amateur title. Then I’d like to turn professional next year.”

Carla will be fighting on TKO’s next card at the Casino Rooms, Rochester, on Sunday, September 7. Visit www.tkokickboxing.co.uk.

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DIRECTOR: Richard Davis records the action

AN ONLINE fitness firm has been set up in Medway, giving users the chance to work out in the comfort of their own homes.

Virtual Gym TV, Europe's only live broadcasting and on-demand internet gym, offers a variety of classes ranging from yoga and aerobics, to pilates and dance.

The work-outs are led by top instructors and filmed at the company's Medway City Estate offices.

Director Richard Davis said: “VirtualGym TV is the only real and cost effective option for those people who can't or won't access a gym for reasons such as having no time, it being too expensive, too far away, or just because they find going to the gym embarrassing or worse, intimidating.

“VirtualGym TV offers a very familiar selection of classes, up-to-date music and the benefit of being taught by the UK's best celebrity fitness instructors.

“New content every day also means it is more cost-effective than buying a fitness DVD, which people tend to become bored with after a few uses.”

The company was given £15,000 through Medway council's Partners for Growth scheme, which helps companies with set up

costs. Medway council's economic development boss Cllr Jane Chitty said: “We were impressed with VirtualGym TV's business plan.

“The company had a sound business proposition and it exports its product outside Medway which means external revenue is coming into the area, which is great news.”

For more information, visit www.virtualgym.tv.

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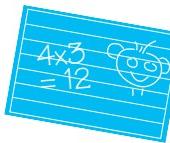
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yourmedwayschools



BREAK TIME



COUNT ON US: Math School pupils with results

Hard work adds up to success at Math School

FOUR Sir Joseph Williamson Mathematical School students will be heading for Oxbridge later this year after securing four straight As in their exams.

Sixth-formers Sam Hinkley, Harry Huang, Gary Stevens and Carl Nelson went to the top of the class after attaining the near perfect grades.

Sam was named top achiever after adding a distinction in his advanced extension paper in history.

The 18-year-old said: "I'm quite excited to be going to Cambridge, it's what I've strived for. I've always judged myself on my exam results and this is the pay-off for a lot of hard work."

Fellow student Jack Maddams, who died just days before his 18th birthday in March, was posthumously awarded two As and a B grade, above the two As and C he was predicted.

His parents, Roger and Jane, were due to collect his results from the school.

The talented footballer, who played for Tonbridge Angels and had trials for England Schoolboys, died from a heart attack in his sleep.

Head teacher Dr Gary Holden said his 144 A-level students should all feel proud.

"Today's results are a tribute to their dedication and commitment and to the excellent support and guidance they have received from teachers," he said. "I wish all of them well."

Champagne supernova

■ BY SIMON ROBINSON

YOUNGSTERS at Rochester Independent College were treated to a champagne breakfast after posting record-breaking A-level results.

The 60 talented pupils notched up 80 As between them – with the top grades coming from just 160 exam entries.

Principal Alistair Brownlow paid tribute to the hard-working pupils and his staff.

He said: "The results have been really great. Overall we've attained roughly 50 per cent grade A exam results, which is getting on double the national average."

"And as a non-selective school with pupils coming to us with significantly lower grades, it's very, very pleasing."

Among those who contributed to the college's huge haul of As was pupils April French, who gained four top grades in history, government and politics, chemistry and French.

The 18-year-old, who will take up a place at the University of York studying law, said: "I checked my results online at home."

"When I saw the As I started screaming and running around the house. I can't wait for university. It's the start of everything now."

"I want to be a barrister and did work experience with Cherie Blair. It was brilliant. I got to watch her in court and she was great."

"I think my grades are the result of lots of good teaching and long days. I was here until 6pm most days, but it was well worth it."

Fellow pupil Peter Shepherd was also in high spirits, after re-sits in biology and chemistry saw Bs turn into As.

The 19-year-old said: "When I got the Bs last year I thought my dreams of studying dentistry were shattered. I was thinking, 'What am I going to do now?'

"I missed out on the As by three marks and was not happy. But Rochester Independent College has been great for me. I wouldn't have got the grades I did without the college."

Mr Brownlow said much of the college's success was down to the atmosphere the pupils



CHEERS: Rochester Independent College students have achieved record-breaking A-level results this year

learn in. He said: "We try to provide an environment where students with the desire to succeed will be helped attain the top grades."

"That's down to small classes – a maximum of eight, which is the smallest in the country – and also the atmosphere we try to create."

"A lot of students are ready for a different environment to school. We try to provide a

stepping stone between school and university."

The principal said the colleges' 25th year would be one of big changes. "We are expanding downwards," he said.

"What we are offering now is the opportunity for pupils as young as 11 to come here. We are opening up the lower school to become a college for complete secondary education."

CLEARING HOTLINES AND WEBSITES

University of Greenwich at Medway: 0800 005 006 and www.gre.ac.uk

University of Greenwich Guide to Clearing is available online – see inside the August 10 Kent on Sunday e-edition at www.kentnews.co.uk

The UCAS helpline is on 0871 468 0468 or visit www.ucas.com for course vacancy listings

Hadlow College: Main information line 0500 551434 www.hadlow.ac.uk

University of Kent: www.kent.ac.uk/clearing

Canterbury Christ Church University: www.canterbury.ac.uk/courses/clearing

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Bright young things are the victims of exam-pass politics

THE stats don't lie – this year's group of school-leavers is officially the smartest batch of bright young things ever to grace our country's classrooms.

Figures show the overall A-level pass rate in the UK hit 97 per cent, with more than 25 per cent of these passes coming at grade A.

The brainiest of the brainboxes notched up a staggering six straight As – double the number of subjects most pupils take on.

Congrats to them. Likewise to actress Emma Watson – of Hermione Granger fame – who had enough breaks in filming on the Harry Potter film set to gain three straight As.

Yes, hats off to the Class of 2008, those whippersnappers will surely change the world. Where their elders failed (the poor dunces) this generation is sure to succeed.

Global warming, HIV, cancer, Third World debt, terrorism, the war in Iraq – watch out, the UK's supersmart 18-year-olds are coming for you. That is, unless, A-level exams are get-

ting easier, skewing the results, and our school-leavers are not getting more intelligent year in, year out. Call me a cynic but I think that's the more plausible option.

Teenagers are clearly no brighter than they were ten years ago, yet attainment has continued to rise year on year.

The only explanation is that our examination system has slowly been dumbed down over time, ensuring government targets are met consistently.

Universities have therefore been forced to raise their entry requirements over the years to try to secure the best of the best students.

But with every student seemingly set to achieve eight straight As in coming years, what do the university deans do then?

The student with the wittiest anecdote gets in? A winner-takes-all game of stone, paper scissors? Perhaps a fight to the death?

Some critics have suggested an A* grade be introduced, a higher grade for the most gifted minds to achieve. Calls have also been made for standards to be raised.

Results would, of course, nosedive, but at

least then those who attained A grades – with the cut-off mark raised, say, to 90 per cent – would genuinely be worthy of them.

I'm loathe to pursue the clichéd 'it wasn't like this in my day' argument but it has to be said that exams were more difficult to pass in the past. Tests from the 1960s are unarguably tougher than the 2008 equivalents.

And with coursework gradually being given more weight in the overall grades, the opportunity for outside help has never been bigger.

The time has come to raise the bar. Either that or we continue to hand out record numbers of A-levels and a similar number of 'job well done' pats on the back for education chiefs.

Ministers must face the fact that they cannot continue to massage the success of their education system by making exams easier.

If they continue diluting A-levels so every year students do better, then they will cease to have any value.

EDITOR'S NOTE: All bloggers are supplied with full name and address of the authors. They do not reflect the view of the newspaper but are designed to give our readers the chance to air their views.

GET IN TOUCH...

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LET US KNOW...

If there is a story in your area you think we should be covering contact the news editor, **Jon Coates**, on **01303 817048** or email him on the details above. If you want to be the next Medway blogger then all you have to do is submit an article to us (of around 550 words) and email it to the news editor. And don't forget, for all the latest news and video from your town log-on to www.yourmedway.co.uk.

Write to The Editor, Yourmedway, Kos Media, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR.

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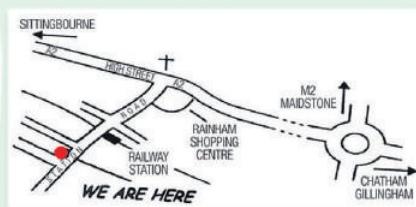
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WIN Tickets to see tribute to USA's teen idols

THIS is your chance to win one of 15 sets of family tickets to American High at The Britannia Theatre, Dickens World.

This Bank Holiday Sunday, August 24, The Britannia Theatre Dickens World will be hosting American High by Class of 08, paying tribute to the best of the all-American high school musical teen movies.

If you rocked to Grease, Saturday Night Fever, Mamma Mia or Dirty Dancing, you're going to love this exciting high octane show.

With fantastic live vocals from a total line up of five boys and girls, this is a fully choreographed show that will have you dancing in the aisles.

For your chance to win one of 15 sets of family tickets, you just need to be one of the first 15 people to call in on

Wednesday, August 20 after 9.30am, on 01634 890421.

If you are not lucky enough to win, tickets can be purchased online or on the number above and are priced at £16.50 for adults, £9.50 for children, or £45.00 for a family of four (two adults and two children).

Book tickets in conjunction with Dickens World entrance tickets and save an additional £2 per person.

Doors open at 6pm, and the show starts at 7pm.

Visit www.dickensworld.co.uk for more details.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

- A family ticket consists of two adults and two children aged five and above
- Tickets will be issued on the night of the performance
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TALK TIME

MAUREEN RUPAREL

The Liberal Democrat councillor took the time to talk about representing her ward and the controversial proposed Kingsnorth development.



Can you tell us a little about yourself?

The focus of my life is my family - I have four children and nine grandchildren, so keeping in touch with everyone takes a lot of time. Children grow so quickly that it is easy to stop being a part of their lives, so I spend quite a bit of time visiting the various families. My husband, Madhu, is in care, but I like to take him out or bring home most days of the week, even if it is only for a couple of hours.

What word do you represent and what are the key issues it faces?

My ward is Gillingham North, and Andy Stamp, Cathy Sutton and I, have a lot to do in keeping up with all the developments. At the moment we have the issue of ammonium nitrate still coming through Chatham Docks, the huge development between the docks and the Strand and the transformation of the Black Lion Leisure Centre, not to mention all the various personal problems we deal with for residents.

What stance does the Lib Dem party have on the Kingsnorth development issue?

The first, and main, objection we have is that there has been absolutely no opportunity for Medway residents to have a proper say in any decision. In a true democracy the power company would have been made to fund a full public inquiry so that everyone could learn the facts and assess the real impact that a new coal-fired power station would have on our air quality - and also whether it is really needed or not! Even at the planning meeting elected members were effectively gagged by the legal advice and not permitted to voice their true objections. We feel that the Government has allowed E.ON to get away with the cheapest option possible and we think the people of Medway deserve better.

YOUR LETTERS



Time to get serious on climate change

As a Hoo resident I say well done to all those who took part in the power station protest.

Let's hope the Government starts to listen to its own rhetoric about the importance of tackling climate change and gets serious about investing in renewable energy sources.

Some of our Euro neighbours are already streets ahead of us.

Wayne Brown, from Hoo, comment posted on web story at www.yourmedway.co.uk

The Tories voted for power station

I am always in favour of youngsters having opinions and taking part in political and environmental activities, and so well done to Yourmedway or interviewing a young climate camp protester at Kingsnorth.

What she had to say was interesting but not surprisingly



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Hoisting of flag will start London 2012 countdown

A commemorative Olympic flag will be unfurled at Rochester Castle this weekend to mark the official countdown to London 2012. The special Regatta will start its journey at Chatham Historic Dockyard at 2pm on Sunday, where it will be taken along the River Medway by two Army boat crews. >>

Local News

- Men feared dead after jumping into River Medway
- Zena managed to get to forecast for free till up
- Regatta to start on Sunday
- Theatre review: Romeo & Juliet, Canterbury Castle
- Epidemic fears as children's MMR jab take-up drops

Marie News

Local Sport

- Lisa Dobrinsky's Olympic blog - updated
- Stiles worried by disciplinary player
- Stiles still looking for two new players

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We will include the best on these pages too - ensuring your comments reach the widest possible audience.

In addition, if you find your newsagent, supermarket or petrol station runs out of Yourmedway before you've picked up your copy, you never need to miss out.

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heated planning process the Liberals did indeed vote against the plant and the Labour group on Medway were split, but the Conservative group voted unanimously for the coal-fired plant to be given permission.

It is not enough for a political party to say they have a policy while in opposition if when they are given a chance to be in control they ignore their own policy.

Derek Munton,
Rochester, by email

Wrong, Arthur: it just doesn't exist

I have just been reading your story, Old King Coal joins eco activists at Kingsnorth in the August 6 issue.

I would like to say that what Arthur Scargill said about the new technology - which he believes exists and can reduce carbon emissions from using fossil fuels to zero - does not actually exist and never will for maybe 50 years.

Chris Kemistry,
by email

Double standards over yard store

I write after reading the comments of Labour MP Paul Clark for Gillingham and Rainham (August 6) on the storage of ammonium nitrate at Chatham Docks.

I find his comments stating he will be making representations to ministers to review hazardous chemical rules to stop potentially explosive materials being stored in Medway as ineffective and committed to double standards.

The rules allowing for the storage of dangerous hazardous substances such as ammonium

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nitrates were brought into effect in 1999.

Mr Clark could have raised concerns at the time about storing dangerous substances in residential areas, but he failed to do so and it was his own Labour government that signed off this legislation.

As an MP you are responsible to debate and make representations on future legislation that affects residents' quality of life.

I have said quite clearly that if elected to represent the people of Gillingham and Rainham I will bring a private member's bill on this matter; as I feel it is wrong to store dangerous substances in residential areas. Residents' safety always comes first.

I thank all the residents who campaigned on this matter along with me and like all of them, I was delighted with the news that Medway council turned down the application to store more dangerous substances.

However, the battle is only half won: there should be no dangerous substances in residential areas.

Rehman Chishti, Conservative parliamentary candidate for Gillingham and Rainham, by email

Time to change the law over chemicals

I am writing to express my concern about the continued storage of ammonium nitrate at Chatham Docks.

As reported, Medway council has decided to refuse the company's application to store 2,500 tonnes of the chemical at the docks.

However, the company can still store up to 1,000 tonnes without having to

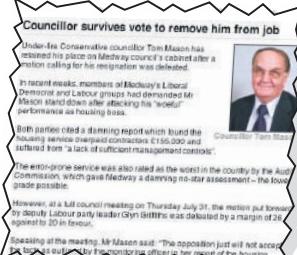
get permission from anyone.

I am also concerned that the company may have been storing the chemical at the docks for some time without the council's knowledge.

I welcome the council's decision to refuse the application to store the chemical at the docks.

I urge local councillors and MPs of all political parties to lobby to get the law changed so that none of this dangerous and potentially explosive chemical can be stored at the docks so near homes, schools and important amenities.

Clr Andy Stamp, Liberal Democrat parliamentary spokesman for Gillingham and Rainham, by email



Massive failure over housing unacceptable

The Tory-led council should be concerned that it kept a significant brief in the hands of someone who was so palpably unable to articulate a clear vision for housing in Medway and who clearly lacked the qualifications to manage this mandate.

Housing is a core responsibility of the council and the report highlighted a monumental failure in management, vision and leadership.

Medway needs a new and energetic housing plan to renew and manage its stock.

Tristan Osborne, from Rochester, comment posted on web story at www.yourmedway.co.uk.

Money matters more than our rubbish

SLACK accounts prepared at great public expense by councils give them too much freedom to push millions of people into poverty in this country.

Council tax has more than doubled under Labour despite services failing us.

Conservatives never miss a trick when it comes to squeezing revenue out of the working poor.

Are genuine unemployment figures closer to 20 per cent of the population, without counting OAPs?

For years 'arms-length management' made them overpaid and redundant, hence their eagerness to make us dependent on their dubious talents, eg. waste collections and wheelie bins.

What profit have German producers of wheelie bins made out of local government's purchase of millions of unnecessary bins?

Why don't young energetic binmen take and return wheelie bins from the furthest end of house frontages?

Let them engage their brains and hopefully take more care and consideration not to miss any.

Rita Grootendorst, by email

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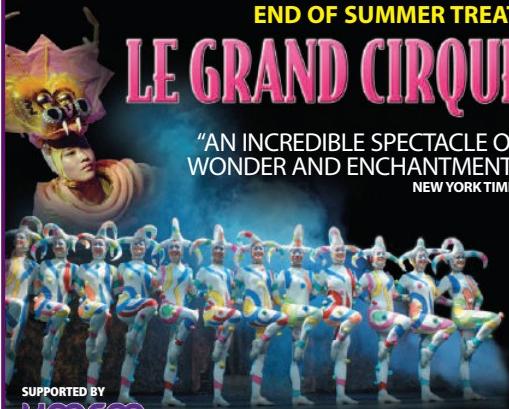
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Watch history as it happens a second time

Military Odyssey allows you to experience the battles yourself

THE past will come to life with a bang when this year's Military Odyssey brings more battlefield action to Maidstone.

Now the UK's largest multi-period military and historical re-enactment event, Military Odyssey offers visitors the chance to witness history unfold firsthand. On the new, larger battlefield, soldiers, guns, tanks and even aircraft will fight the battles that shaped our world.

To make the re-enactments even more realistic this year, there will be a small village on the battlefield that living history groups can use to create convincing scenery.

There will be a vast array of groups attending, covering diverse periods from the ancient Greeks, Vikings and medieval knights to Napoleonic troopers, the American Civil War, the two world wars and Vietnam.

With both indoor and outdoor trade stalls and rare vehicles on display, the event offers a full day out for all the family.

Attracting many of the top living history groups from across the UK and Europe, this year's event will feature contributions from groups representing Celts, Saxons, Normans, medieval jousting knights, medieval households and Napoleonic times, which include troopers from Poland, Russia and France.

World War One will be represented by aircraft from the Manston Air Museum along with the 10th Essex, the Birmingham Pals and the Royal Flying Corps contingent.

Find out about life during World War Two with the airborne Screaming Eagles Living History Group, the 29th Historical Association, LHA, the 514th QM Truck Regiment Re-enactment Group and The Burma Mule Association with their pack mules and other regiments.



FEROCIOUS: Above, Roman centurions will be demonstrating their skills, and left, youngsters learn the military history and have fun too

Watch the skirmishes, pitched battles and drills by those on the front line and discover what life was like for those at home with the civilian counterparts. With the opportunity to take home collectable souvenirs, such as toy soldiers and other historical goods, there is plenty on offer throughout the weekend.

One-day tickets on the gate cost £14/£11.50 for adults, £8.50 for children aged five to 15 and £40.50 for families. Two and three-day tickets are available. For more information and discounted advance booking visit www.military-odyssey.com.

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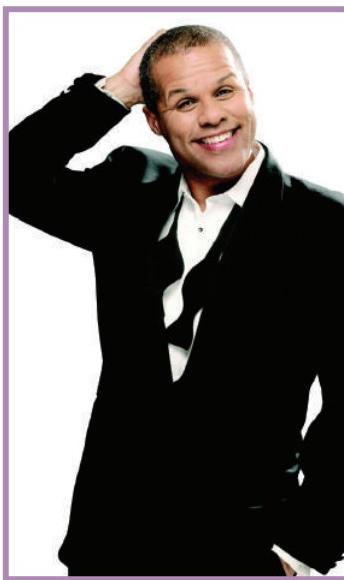
Thursday, September 18
Orchard Theatre, Dartford

TWO great talents come together to present an evening of musical favourites next month. Singer, comedian and actor Gary Wilmot and musician Mike Alexander have more than 50 years of show business experience between them and they are ready to show audiences why they are still at the top of their game.

Wilmot was a finalist in TV talent show New Faces and children's TV show So You Want To Be Top in the 80s, before breaking into West End theatre in 1989 as Bill Snibson in Me and My Girl. He went on to carve an impressive career in the cinema, starring in both musical and straight acting.

Renowned conductor, musical arranger and pianist, Alexander has worked with huge stars, including Liza Minnelli and Shirley Bassey, and performed at venues such as the Royal Albert Hall and Carnegie Hall.

Fans of classic songs can look forward to an evening of great music, professionalism and witty repartee. The show starts at 7.45pm and tickets cost £17.50. To book call 01322 220000 or visit www.orchardtheatre.co.uk.



LIVE FROM THE FORT

Saturday, September 6
Fort Amherst, Chatham



SIX top bands will be showing why they are such exciting talents at a special gig at Fort Amherst.

Live From The Fort will showcase some of the best new music around in a great setting. Acoustic folk band Lupen Crook and the Murderbirds are on the bill,

along with UpC DownC LeftC RightC Abc + Start – more commonly known as UpC DownC.

They are joined by alternative rock bands The Lovedays and Aliquot Flow, The Aquitaine Progression and ska/punk group Underground Heroes, pictured.

Fort Amherst is a very atmospheric place to hold a night of great music, with many intriguing underground tunnels and possibly

more yet to be found. There is also a wealth of military history to see there, such as the Main Magazine which once held a massive 1,000 barrels, or 45 tonnes, of gun powder.

Doors open at 7.45pm and the music starts at 8pm. Tickets cost £7.50 in advance or £9 on the door. For ticket information visit www.jeemo.co.uk. There is a strict over-21s alcohol policy and ID may be required.

ure chests, or find out what treasures you can lay your hands on in the children's lucky dip. See if you can track down a miscreant on the Spot the Smuggler Trail as they go about their secretive business.

There will also be storytelling on board HMS Gannet, colouring activities, a brass rubbing trail, a family fun trail and the family Ropery tour.

Tickets, which are valid for 12 months, cost £13.50/£11 for adults, £9 for children aged five to 15 and £38 for families of four. The Dockyard is open from 10am to 6pm daily.

Join in the creative workshops to make your own 3D smugglers' huts and treas-

SMUGGLERS WEEKEND

Sunday and Monday,
August 24-25
The Historic Dockyard,
Chatham

SMUGGLERS will be emerging from their secret hiding places to share their treasures at the Historic Dockyard this weekend.

Spend the bank holiday in the company of the men who transported contraband at the risk of imprisonment or worse. There will be lots of fun activities and smuggler-themed entertainment for all the family to enjoy as the rogues share their valuable secrets with visitors.

Join in the creative workshops to make your own 3D smugglers' huts and treas-



MEDWAY LEISURE

Spend your Saturday night at the drive-in

THE Ebbsfleet International railway station will be running a drive-in cinema over the bank holiday weekend.

There will be big screens in two of the car parks and soundtracks will be received via car radios. On Saturday the film will be Matt Damon thriller the Bourne Ultimatum and on Sunday it will be musical Moulin Rouge, starring Nicole Kidman and Ewan McGregor. Find out at www.eurostar.co.uk.

There's no secret about how much you'll love gig

ROCK band Secret Love Society will be taking part in the next Riverside Live event in Chatham.

The Command House in Dock Road will host the event on Saturday, which starts at 1pm and will feature several bands and DJs playing until late. Admission is free.

To find out more about Secret Love Society visit www.myspace.com/secretlovesociety. For more about the event call the pub on 01634 810120 or go online at www.myspace.com/thecommandhouse.

Come to The Horseshoe to hear great pair play

DUO Nige 'n' Andy will be performing their brand of rock and pop at a pub in Strood this weekend.

The pair got together in 1998 but took a break in 2004, reforming in 2006 and playing in Gravesend and Medway.

See them perform at The Horseshoe in Cuxton Road on Saturday. For more information about the venue or the gig call the pub on 01634 718414.

All the fun of the Circus when band performs

UNWIND this bank holiday weekend by enjoying some live music at the Alexandra Hotel in Chatham.

Circus will be providing the entertainment at the club in Railway Street on Sunday, starting at 5pm. The music finishes at 7pm but staff say the good atmosphere lasts for the rest of the night.

For more information about the venue call 01634 830545 or visit www.alexandrachatham.co.uk.

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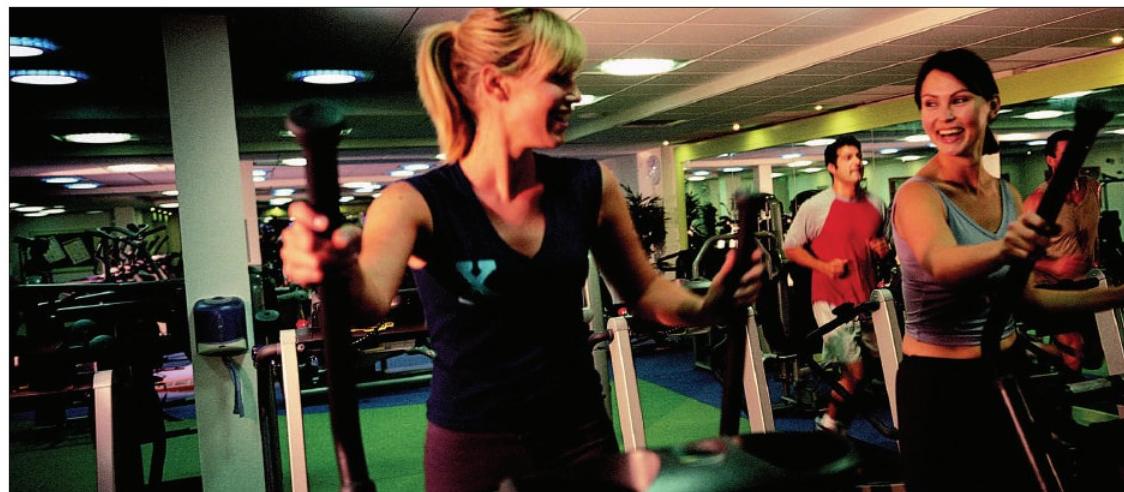
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The centre has six personal trainers supplying one-to-one

sessions, which include weight management consultation, fitness testing and objective lifestyle advice.

The personal trainers are fully qualified and experienced, half are also qualified in sports therapy, and so are able to provide support for every need.

Manager Kim Brockhurst said: "To us all of our customers are VIPs. My team thrive on achieving individual goals."

Village health and fitness clubs are the perfect place to kick start change – and with a fitness regime designed at your own pace, we are on hand to guide you every step of the way to becoming the healthiest you can be."

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Learning to look good

Bridal Hair and Beauty

TEENAGERS from the area have been putting their summer holiday spare time to good use in a series of practical hairdressing and make-up workshops.

The Hair & Beauty Training School, which is based in The Historic Dockyard in Chatham, Kent, has opened its doors for the summer to young people aged between 11 and 15 to give them a glimpse of salon life.

Lead stylist and head tutor Georgette Jarvis said: "I teach hair styling and beauty to NVQ Level 3 during term time to adults, but I thought this year instead of closing the training salon for summer I would open it up and give interested youngsters something to do during their six-week break from school."

The first two courses were fully booked within days, but there are limited spaces on the remaining course starting on August 25.

"The courses are run over five mornings and the youngsters learn how to do simple but effective hair styles and on the beauty courses learn how to make themselves look great," said Georgette. "The girls have found it useful because they gain knowledge and self-confidence. They can also use it as a



taster to see if they would like to go to college and pursue a career in hair and beauty."

Parents were delighted too. One mother said: "I think this has helped my daughter's confidence greatly. The staff were excellent. I am sure this will lead her in the right direction for a Connections course which we have been fighting so hard for."

Courses run from 9.30am to 12.45pm Monday to Friday. Georgette is planning a series of courses on hair, beauty and modelling in the October half term period. For more details contact 01634 222128 or see www.bhabtraining.com.

Women shape up their lives

Think Slim 'n' Trim

A PERSONAL solution to health and weight loss goals is offered by Think Slim 'n' Trim, **Herbalife distributor**, with ShapeWorks coach Nevil Kapadia reaching out to clients in many different countries.

He explains: "This is a major way to maximise nutrition and potential and customers can go online to see what products are available to ensure their body is at its very best. Often the most available foods are high in fat, sugar and salt and lacking in essential nutrients. This can lead to the body being denied essential vitamins and minerals."

The UK, Finland, Sweden, New Zealand and the USA all boast customers for Nevil's health-boosting range.

One of the most popular products he offers is Formula 1 – a shake-style drink developed 27 years ago. A meal in itself in one glass, it is the ideal start to any day as it is packed with vitamins and minerals, soya protein, carbohydrates and healthy fibre – but with less than 220 calories in each serving.

Nevil believes it's truly life changing, and he's got the testimonials to prove it.

• Jo from Barnsley: In August 2002, I discovered the Herbalife programme, now known as ShapeWorks.



Within a month I had dropped a dress size, plus the extra energy I suddenly had was amazing. The programme has been easy to follow, and with the added bonus of having a specially trained consultant to advise you on how to get your best result, the support is truly fantastic. I thought I was going mad before – basically I feel it has been my saving grace.

• Katrina from Gosport: I desperately tried to lose weight and improve my health. I was running nearly every day, using my gym and trying to eat healthily, but I just couldn't seem to shift the weight. Then I stumbled across the ShapeWorks programme.

I lost over a stone in 6 weeks, and reduced from a size 14 to a size 10. My health improved immensely, especially my energy levels. With the shakes I can do far more than I ever could before. I went on to lose one-and-a-half stone.



I had dropped a dress size, plus the extra energy I suddenly had was amazing. The programme has been easy to follow, and with the added bonus of having a specially trained consultant to advise you on how to get your best result, the support is truly fantastic. I thought I was going mad before – basically I feel it has been my saving grace.

• Katrina from Gosport: I desperately tried to lose weight and improve my health. I was running nearly every day, using my gym and trying to eat healthily, but I just couldn't seem to shift the weight. Then I stumbled across the ShapeWorks programme.

I lost over a stone in 6 weeks, and reduced from a size 14 to a size 10. My health improved immensely, especially my energy levels. With the shakes I can do far more than I ever could before. I went on to lose one-and-a-half stone.

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TOP TIPS

Allen & Walden

If you are thinking of purchasing expensive products for a specific skin problem visit a reputable salon with experienced therapists. Book an appointment to have a facial so they can assess your skin fully before advising you on the correct routine and products for your skin type, and take samples to try at home before you buy.

Think Slim 'n' Trim

Start your plan with a positive mental attitude, as your mind is the greatest influence to your success. When choosing restaurant food never be shy of asking the waiter to take off the high sugar extras and substitute with an alternative; you'll be surprised at how many oblige.

Becky's Beauty Room

Keep well hydrated, especially at this time of year. When your skin becomes dehydrated fine lines appear that will later turn into wrinkles! Don't forget spf 15 or higher sun cream too

Laser White

When considering Laser Hair Removal (IPL), check the salon is registered with the Healthcare Commission before you have a consultation and patch test. Asks questions and research the equipment being used as not all lasers/IPL's use or have the same technology. Results can vary greatly.

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Tiffs recommends the importance of a fantastic hairstyle that is tailor made to suit your lifestyle and face shape. A Tiffs haircut will be designed and crafted to make the client's hair look individual and personal to their requirements.

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MEDWAY SHOPPING

School uniform prices crunched for parents

FAMILIES feeling the pinch of the credit crunch can pick up a bargain school uniform at ASDA.

The supermarket's George at ASDA range has launched the lowest-priced uniform for children aged from three to 12, with a complete outfit costing just £4. This includes a polo shirt for 50p, a skirt or trousers for £1.75 and a sweatshirt costing £1.75.

The offer is only available while stocks last at the Maidstone Road store in Chatham.

From crater to the high street, the hottest rock

DIAMONDS are forever but moissanite is the hottest new rock on the block.

Beaverbrooks has become the first high street chain to stock the near-colourless jewel, which has its origins in a meteor crater in Arizona, USA.

Beaverbrooks has launched four exclusive collections featuring moissanite, with a pair of stud earrings costing £550. It is only available in 22 stores nationwide – including the Bluewater store – but can be bought online at www.beaverbrooks.co.uk.

Suits from £39 ... and a T-shirt for a mere £7

MEN can make the most of huge savings on tops, trousers and shirts in Burton's summer sale.

The stores in Chatham High Street and Hempstead Valley have men's T-shirts and tops for as little as £7, suits from £39, jeans and trousers from £7, shirts from £5, and shoes and flip-flops from £3.

Socks and underwear can also be yours for just £1.50, as well as a number of accessories starting at £3. For more information visit www.burton.co.uk.

Huge summer savings in garden furniture sale

SHOPPERS can save 50 per cent on garden furniture, conservatories and lighting at Homebase's summer clearance sale.

Customers can also get a third off selected barbecues and bathrooms, 50 per cent off selected outdoor heaters, with three-for-two offers on standard Dulux coloured emulsion at the store in Maidstone Road, Chatham.

For more information, visit www.homebase.co.uk.

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MISTAKES in homework could be a thing of the past with the world's first retractable correction pen.

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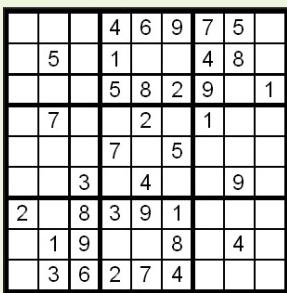
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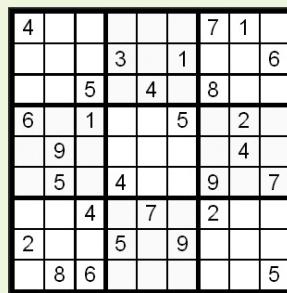
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Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9

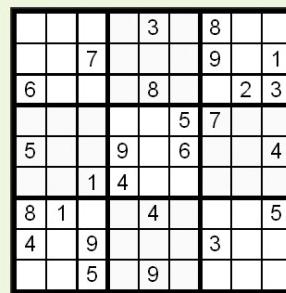
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HARD



CRYPTIC CLUES

ACROSS

- 8 Nude could move clear (9)
- 9 Had a challenge inside country house (5)
- 10 Truck with boat about to park here (5,4)
- 11 Spent £1 in obtaining tartan cloth (5)
- 12 Does it need reply from a heavyweight? (6,8)
- 15 On the way back, slightly open for prince (4)
- 17 A team award for widely accepted principle (5)
- 19 Hay is shortly said to be producing mistiness (4)
- 21 Leander, a devotee? (4-10)
- 23 Bird be entering mountainous region (5)
- 24 Picture ordinary photograph with vitality (5-4)
- 26 Yawning hollow has appeared in many a mountain to start with (5)
- 27 Mentions a new state (9)

DOWN

- 1 Open out a French register (6)
- 2 Lady included one nickname of Queen Elizabeth I (8)
- 3 Serve a writ as one pub collapses (8)
- 4 Ever changing swerve (4)
- 5 Fatty reorganised aid put forward (7)
- 6 After science, one had a twitch, a bout of neuralgia (8)
- 7 Entertainer can depart upset (3-6)
- 13 Departs on equal terms (5)
- 14 Person having constructive ideas (9)
- 16 Very large bottle for old king (8)
- 18 Principal train-bearer (4,4)
- 19 Vain aspiration Leslie South produced (8)
- 20 Pair on occasion deceive (3-4)
- 22 Disprove a less remarkable feature (6)
- 25 Cotton on small branch (4)

SCRIBBLE HERE



QUICK CLUES

ACROSS

- 8 Combining with oxygen (9)
- 9 About (anag.) (1-4)
- 10 Magic words (3-6)
- 11 Cassava (5)
- 12 Prone to pilfering (6-8)
- 15 Placed above (4)
- 17 King or queen (5)
- 19 Leak slowly (4)
- 21 Start of a formal letter (4,3,2,5)
- 23 Scoundrel (5)
- 24 Country building (9)
- 26 Bottle (5)
- 27 Crazed out (anag.) (4,1,4)

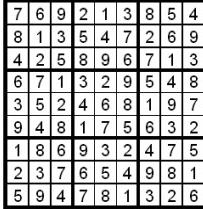
DOWN

- 1 Surplus (6)
- 2 Approval (8)
- 3 Naked runner (8)
- 4 Tie (4)
- 5 Charge for use of wharf (7)
- 6 Musical composition (8)
- 7 Sat across (9)
- 13 Sheet of paper (5)
- 14 Vibrating (9)
- 16 Greenhouse (8)
- 18 Bring to mind (8)
- 19 Matriarch (3,5)
- 20 Escorted (7)
- 22 Hit snooker ball wrongly (6)
- 25 Affirm (4)

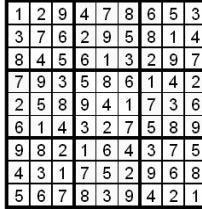
LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

SUDOKU SOLUTIONS No49

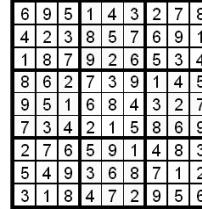
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MEDIUM



HARD



Answers to all of this week's quizzes can be found on our website

CRYPTIC SOLUTION No49

ACROSS: 1 Quill-pen 6 In toto 9 Zander 10 Rational 11 Evening class 13 Karma 14 Chain-mail 17 Skinfint 19 Snear 21 Whitewashing 24 Clangour 25 Durban 26 Odette 27 Lawrence.

DOWN: 2 Upas 3 Ladies man 4 Parley 5 Norwich 6 Intaglio 7 Troll 8 Transfixed 12 Jack-the-lad 15 Menagerie 16 Blowhole 18 Nostril 20 Midew 22 Tinct 23 Marc.

QUICK SOLUTION No50

ACROSS: 1 Oxocart 22 Misuse 25 Zebra 26 Shattered 27 Remembrance 28 Meant 29 Distracted 31 Riddle 34 Languor 35 Oxytropis 6 Connex 7 Strangler 4 Knott 5 Oxytropis 26 Newts 27 Old 32 Rognue 24 Flomax 1 Ecosse 2 Adiponectin 3 Dryptic 19 Ode 21 Deer St 22 Blowhole 18 Pretzel 10 Hail 11 Vaca 12 Styling 15 Gated 13 Glitter 14 Daffodil 15 Tint 16 Hey! 17 Quifer 19 Ode 21 Deer St 22 Blowhole 18 Pretzel 10 Hail 11 Vaca 12 Styling 15 Gated 13 Glitter 14 Daffodil 15 Tint 16 Hey!

DOWN: 2 Upas 3 Ladies man 4 Parley 5 Norwich 6 Intaglio 7 Troll 8 Transfixed 12 Jack-the-lad 15 Menagerie 16 Blowhole 18 Nostril 20 Midew 22 Tinct 23 Marc.

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All aboard the desert camel train

BY RICHARD CRANIDGE

AS soon as you glimpse a brochure from Exodus, one of the most successful operators in the booming business of family adventure holidays, you know you aren't in for one of those holidays where everybody sits around slowly tanning themselves.

But in the bustling main street of the Moroccan town of Ourzazat, across the High Atlas mountains from Marrakech, the cheerful pep talk from our guide was intended to prepare us for the challenges that lay ahead.

Over bread and croissants at breakfast, our guide gave us his three golden rules: 1 Don't drink the water. 2 Don't buy food from dodgy street stalls. 3 Always ask before taking photos of locals (not that they'll want to thump you, but they might demand a few dirhams in appearance fees).

With that, we were off on a 300-mile trek spanning seven rather hectic days – safe in the hands of our trusty minibus driver.

The sun beats down mercilessly on this country for most of the year, with the average rainfall for September just 0.3in and an average temperature of 31°C. Yet in the midst of the arid plains and hills, rivers occasionally force their way to the surface, providing oases and vital agricultural land.

Within these pockets of green, villagers who



SUITED TO THE SAHARA: Camels have a reputation for being grumpy... but they're just what you need in the desert

live in traditional adobe dwellings – made from baked mud and straw – grow dates, melons, figs and apricots for sale in local markets.

Eventually, however, most of the water dries up and the Sahara stretches out for thousands of miles as far as the Red Sea.

At the outpost town of Zagora, we left behind the minibus for the traditional means of transport of the Sahara.

Despite their amazing feats of endurance, camels have gained a reputation for being smelly and grumpy, but the ones that took our group of 15, bags and bedding on a two-hour trek into the desert certainly didn't put me off the beasts.

It gave the next stop on our tour a tough act to follow, but a place used as a film set for

Gladiator, Lawrence of Arabia and a host of other films is bound not to disappoint.

Our accommodation in the mountains was rather more basic, what the Moroccans call a gite, which would probably just pass the youth hostel test in Britain. However, what it lacked in facilities, it more than made up for in character.

Next day, as a cooling breeze blew in from the south, we enjoyed a walk up into the mountains.

Just a few hours later, we found ourselves standing in the central square of Djemaa El Fna in Marrakech. Fifty miles away, it seemed like a whole world away in its bustling busy-ness.

Morocco provides a magnificent assault on the senses. I will definitely return before the sands of time run out – and it is dragged into the 21st century by nearby Europe.

FACT FILE: MOROCCO

Time difference	As United Kingdom
Capital	Rabat
Population	33.7 million
Language	Arabic
Climate	Mediterranean
Religion	Islam
Currency	Dirham (approx 14.3 to £1)

Travel details

Richard Cranidge was a guest of Exodus, which operates eight-day escorted journeys to Marrakech and the Sahara from £689 per person, including return flights from Heathrow, travel by private minibus and camel, five nights' hotel accommodation, one night gite accommodation, and one night in a Bedouin camp. Package also includes all breakfasts and two dinners. Price of package without flights starts at £415.

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PROPERTY NEWS

Confusion clouds minimum targets

GOVERNMENT proposals for minimum housing requirements could harm the environment and stretch transport, schools, energy and water supplies to breaking point, says the South East England Regional Assembly's planning committee.

Newly-elected committee chairman Cllr Moira Gibson has written to Housing Minister Caroline Flint calling for certainty on the number of homes expected from local authorities.

The Government says annual housing targets are now the minimum that each council should deliver up until 2026.

However, Cllr Gibson, a Conservative, said this would prevent realistic assessments of the environmental impact of new homes and infrastructure.

She said: "A target should be a long-term goal, not a starting point. Otherwise housing allocations could be exceeded without the impacts on infrastructure, the environment and the community having been tested."

"Government could be creating unnecessary problems by saying the targets are minimums and not allowing authorities the flexibility to spread housing delivery across a number of years."

"This will prevent councils planning properly for the future and create unsustainable developments."

Vice-chairman Cllr Jerry Patterson, a Liberal Democrat, said: "Apart from problems with sustainability, minimum housing targets are unrealistic. Local authorities can grant planning permission for homes but have no control over whether or not developers build them."

Southern comfort over house prices

PROPERTY prices in the South East are likely to remain reasonably strong despite the economic downturn, according to market analysts Knight Frank.

The area – which includes Kent but also takes in London – will do well because of the sheer number of people who live there, say the experts.

Company spokesman Liam Frank said: "The strongest markets over the next few years will be London and the South East due to the weight of demand for accommodation."

The overall market has seen a downturn in recent months, but the very latest figures from the Halifax indicate that this may be slowing down and the sector stabilising.



BRIGHT YOUNG THINGS: Buying a property for your student offspring as a medium-term investment is becoming increasingly attractive, but take care to avoid the pitfalls

What could possibly go wrong, daddy?

AN INCREASING number of parents are benefiting from investing in a student property to help out their children at university, say leading lawyers Moore Blatch.

Market analysts have said the price of accommodation in university towns is low enough to attract investors who feel they can provide for their children and then make a profit if they later decide to sell on.

The fluctuating market is another attraction as many feel that house prices will be increasing again within three or four years – the usual time for a degree course.

Estate agents in Canterbury said they had seen an increase in enquiries when it came to

flats usually rented to University of Kent students.

The Medway towns have seen a similar interest in properties close to the Greenwich university campus.

Last year an estimated 3,000 parents in the UK bought a house or flat for a family member to live in while studying and, as property prices fall and rents are on the increase, the idea of buying a cheap property for their student offspring is becoming increasingly attractive.

Market experts say the following advantages can be gained:

- Arrangements could be structured in such a way that any gains in property prices are free of Capital Gains Tax.
- A suitable trust structure can protect the asset from reckless behaviour.

• Rent-a-room relief allows the child to rent out rooms to fellow students for up to £4,250 a year tax-free – equivalent to a mortgage of almost £80,000.

• Other rental income will be charged at the student's personal tax band, which is likely to be basic rate.

Andy Kirby, manager at Moore Blatch solicitors, said: "Many desirable flats are currently being sold at a discount in university towns due to an oversupply and a scarcity of new buy-to-let investors."

"With rental costs still high, parents should consider the pros and cons of buying rather than renting. A word of caution, however: it is essential to place the property in a suitable trust arrangement such that the offspring cannot take reckless decisions."

AUCTIONEER CLIVE EMSON TAKES A TOUR OF SOME OF THE QUIRKIER PROPERTIES TO BE FOUND IN THE AREA @ propertyforkent.co.uk



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Three bedroom semi-detached in a popular, in need of modernisation available with no forward chain.



£124,950

3 bedroom home in need of redecoration, is offered with no chain. DG, CH, upstairs bathroom and rear garden extended to approximately 100'.



£250,000

Three bedroom detached bungalow situated in a sought after cul-de-sac. Features include, fitted kitchen diner, DG conservatory and garage.



£175,000

Three bedroom extended semi offering fitted kitchen, separate dining area, landscaped garden and off road parking as well as garage un-bloc.



OIRO £215,000

Three bedroom Semi-Detached home. Features include, extended kitchen, ground floor cloakroom, well maintained garden and parking.



£220,000

Three bedroom link detached. Features include DG, CH, kitchen, DG conservatory and low maintenance landscaped rear garden.



£199,950

2 bedroom semi-detached Bungalow. The bungalow has been extended to the rear and it's in need of a little updating but is available with no chain.

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MOTORS NEWS



Qashqai all-rounder now attacks the Zafira

NISSAN'S sales success with its Qashqai all-rounder was virtually guaranteed by axing three cars to make way for it.

The dull Almera family hatch, Primera family car and ailing Tino MPV all went, but their replacement competes so well on so many levels as part family hatchback, part family wagon, part SUV and part MPV, while all-wheel drive models can even hack it a little off-road.

And now Nissan wants to add seven-seat midi-MPV power in the sector dominated by the Vauxhall Zafira, by offering the new Qashqai+2 in October from £17,199.



Latest Cayman poses 911 query over style

PORSCHE'S mid-range Cayman model has a new flagship – the S Sport, on sale from September 13 at £48,890.

Derived from the long-running Boxster roadster in 2005, the Cayman proved so successful that some experts queried whether it threatened the German sporting marque's 'icon' – the legendary rear-engine 911.

The new Cayman's flat-six boxer engine has 12bhp more power than the standard Cayman S and even looks like a 911 GT3 RS when decked out in that model's trademark orange or green with side flashes, as pictured.



Leaner, greener, beamer

BMW'S most affordable croptop – the 1-Series Convertible – has two leaner and greener options.

They are the 118d and 123d (from £23,660) with the former featuring BMW's most economical four-cylinder diesel ever; an engine that has won the title of World Green Car of the Year for the 1-Series hatchback.

In the convertible, the 1,995cc turbodiesel produces 143bhp, a 0-62mph time of 9.5 seconds, plus a top speed of 129mph, but also averages nearly 60mpg and emits just 129g/km of CO₂.



A LITTLE GEM: Nissan has steadily massaged the Micra's exterior detailing to make it more unisex after early versions suffered from a feminine look, there is even a raunchy SR model

Celebrate 25 years with the latest Nissan Micra

NISSAN'S Micra supermini has just celebrated 25 years and the third generation car looks as fresh as ever.

The term 'modtro' was coined for launch advertising in 2002, neatly capturing the car's mixture of modern and retro style repeated more recently by the reborn Fiat 500 and is sure to herald more small fashion models.

It was not always like this; the original 1983 vintage Micra was about as conventional as a supermini could be and was virtually ignored at its British Motor Show debut.

Nissan had the last laugh though when this car became the platform for several limited edition vehicles, two of which are sought after second-hand by UK buyers even now – the Figaro and the snail-shaped S-Cargo van.

No doubt spurred on by these funky creations, the 1992 second generation car had a distinctive 'over-inflated' rounded style of its own that also marked a major expansion of the Nissan site at Sunderland.

The current car might be six years old, but is perhaps even more contemporary now that it

ROAD TEST NISSAN MICRA

■ BY STEVE LOADER

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Green rating	★★★★★

has the Fiat 500 for company.

Dynamically, it also stands comparison with the newer model, but its age is starting to show against other modern rivals in terms of driving enjoyment and on-road refinement.

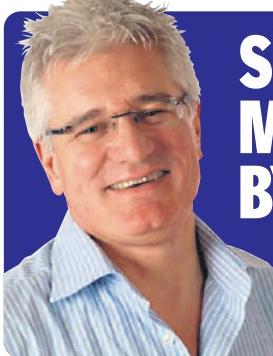
That said, the Micra remains one of the best value cars in its class and is well-built with generous specifications.

Nissan has also steadily massaged exterior detailing to make it more unisex after early versions suffered from a rather more feminine look. Indeed, there is even a pair of 'warmed-up' and raunchy SR performance models.

The engine range is one of the finest in the sector, making it quite tough to decide on the best option: the Renault-derived 1.5dCi diesel is tempting for economy and power but price and the current diesel versus petrol price differential argues against it.

My preference is the bargain basement 1.2 petrol as tested here; it is good on fuel, keeps you in a sensible road tax band (band-C – £120/year) and starts at just £7,700 in junior Visia spec – high spec Tekna versions start from £10,800.

• Email steve.loader@kosmedia.co.uk



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Motability

USED CAR ROUND-UP: OUR PICK FROM A KEY SECTOR

ROAD TAX AND FUEL SAVERS

Soaring fuel prices and a hike in road tax charges have combined with the credit crunch to force a reality check on Britain's drivers. The good news is that you do not have to buy new to slash your motoring costs even if used prices on the best economy cars have boomed while 'gas guzzler' values have gone bust. Our choice here mixes two ultimate misers with the Mini D as a 'left field' candidate that might cost more to buy, but will preserve your wallet and street cred.

MINI D



USED values for the frugal yet lively diesel version of BMW's reborn Mini are steep, but the rewards are worth it; the car drives well, oozes class, will save money while you run it and be worth more when you sell. The downside is a relatively cramped interior in comparison with its exterior – the antithesis of its all-British forebear – and rarity when buying. A late 'Mark II' petrol version with BMW's eco-friendly 'Efficient Dynamics' package is a possible alternative though.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

FIAT PANDA



FIAT'S five-door city car shows that a highly space-efficient interior does not have to result in a utilitarian exterior. The compact Italian is also decent to drive, cheap to insure and costs peanuts to run. The original Panda of the 1980s was also cheap and cheerful, but didn't feature the cutting edge technology of its modern day counterpart. A lively turbodiesel – averaging more than 65mpg – and a rugged little 4x4 option only add to the Panda's powerful attractions.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

PEUGEOT 107



PEUGEOT'S smallest model is the best-seller of a joint venture three and five-door city car project that also spawned the Toyota Aygo and Citroën C1. All come from the same production line in the Czech Republic and, with minor styling tweaks, are modern, stylish, cheap to run and reliable. Launch prices were not as cheap as expected, but robust new car sales and second-hand values indicate that the public is willing to pay to save money and the planet.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

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05 05 MEGANE 1-6 EXPRESSION ESTATE CAR AUTO PAS AIR/C BLACK 9000MILES.....	£9995
05 05 ASTRA 1-6 LIFE ESTATE CAR AUTO PAS AIR/C TAN 12000 MILES.....	£9995
04 54 FOCUS 1-6 LX ESTATE 5 DR AUTO PAS DEEP ROSSO RED 8000 MILES.....	£6495
04 54 PEUGEOT 307 5 ESTATE AUTO PAS AIR/C RED 10000 MILES.....	£7495
03 53 ASTRA 1-6 CLUB AUTO PAS 5DR ESTATE AIR SILVER 13000 MILES.....	£5995
03 03 FOCUS 1-6 GHIA ESTATE CAR AUTO PAS AIR/C ROSSO 5300 MILES.....	£5995

FORD FUSION & FIESTA

07 07 FUSION 1-6 PLUS CLIMATE AUTO PAS AIR/C AMETHYST 4000 MILES.....	£9995
07 07 FUSION 1-6 PLUS CLIMATE AUTO PAS AIR/C TANGO RED 14000MILES.....	£9995
05 55 FIESTA 1-6 GHIA 5 DR AUTO PAS TONIC BLUE LEATHER 4000 MILES.....	£9995
05 55 FIESTA 1-6 STYLE 3 DR AUTO PAS TANGO RED AIR/C 13000 MILES.....	£9995
05 05 FUSION 1-6 AUTO PAS 5 DR AIR/C BLUE MET 1000 MILES.....	£7495
05 05 FUSION 1-6 AUTO PAS 5 DR PANTHER BLACK 2000 MILES.....	£6495
05 54 FUSION 1-6 AUTO PAS 5 DR GREY ALLOYS AIR/C 14000 MILES.....	£6495
04 54 FIESTA 1-6 GHIA 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C SILVER 15000 MILES.....	£6495
03 03 FUSION 2-4 AUTO PAS AIR/C BRONZE METALLIC 38000 MILES.....	£4995

NEW FORD FOCUS

06 56 FOCUS 1-6 ZETEC CLIMATE AUTO PAS AIR/C BLUE 8000 MILES.....	£9995
06 56 FOCUS 1-6 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C TANGO RED 14000 MILES.....	£9995
06 06 FOCUS 1-6 LX 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C AQUARIUS BLUE 14000 MILES.....	£9995
06 55 FOCUS 1-6 ZETEC CLIMATE AUTO PAS AIR/C TANGO RED 17000MILES.....	£9995
05 55 FOCUS 1-6 LX 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C SILVER METALLIC 21000 MILES.....	£7495
05 55 FOCUS 1-6 ZETEC CLIMATE AUTO PAS TONIC BLUE 14000 MILES.....	£7495
05 55 FOCUS 1-6 LX 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C JEANS BLUE 15000 MILES.....	£7495
05 05 FOCUS 1-6 LX 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C PANTHER BLACK 12000 MILES.....	£6495
05 55 FOCUS 1-6 ZETEC CLIMATE AUTO PAS AIR/C ALLOYS BLUE 13000MILES.....	£7495
05 05 FOCUS 1-6 LX 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C TANGO SILVER 13000MILES.....	£7495
05 05 FOCUS 1-6 LX 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C JEANS BLUE 9000 MILES.....	£6495
05 05 FOCUS 1-6 LX 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C PANTHER BLACK 9000 MILES.....	£6495
05 05 FOCUS 1-6 GHIA 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C MAGNUM GREY 16000 MILES.....	£7495

FORD FOCUS

05 05 FOCUS 1-6 ZETEC 3DR AUTO PAS AIR ALLOYS ROSSO 12000 MILES.....	£5995
04 54 FOCUS 1-6 ZETEC 5DR AUTO PAS ALLOYS ROSSO RED 15000 MILES.....	£5995
04 54 FOCUS 1-6 ZETEC 5DR AUTO PAS ALLOYS SILVER 5000 MILES.....	£5995
04 04 FOCUS 1-6 GHIA AUTO SALOON AIR/C ALLOYS SILVER 28000 MILES.....	£7495
04 04 FOCUS 1-6 LX AUTO PAS 4 DR ALLOYS AIR/C BLACK 13000 MILES.....	£6495
04 04 FOCUS 2-0 GHIA 5 DR AUTO PAS LEATHER TONIC BLUE 24000 MILES.....	£7495
04 04 FOCUS 16 GHIA AUTO PAS 4 DR ALLOYS SILVER AIR/C ON 27000 MILES.....	£5995
03 03 FOCUS 1-6 GHIA 3DR AUTO PAS ALLOYS GREEN MET 5000 MILES.....	£4995

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07 07 NEW CORSA 1-4 DESIGN AUTO PAS AIR 5 DR MET BLUE 14000MILES.....	£10995
06 06 CORSA 1-0 LIFE 3 DR AUTO PAS SILVER CD 18000 MILES.....	£5995
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05 55 CORSA 1-4 DESIGN AUTO PAS AIR/POMEGRANATE RED 7000 MILES.....	£7495
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06 56 CITROEN PICASSO 2-0 EXCLUSIVE AUTO SILVER 5000 MILES.....	£9995
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06 56 HONDA JAZZ 1-4 SE 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR ALLOYS 7000 MILES.....	£10495

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04 04 HYUNDAI ACCENT 1-6 CDX PAS AIR/C SILVER 12000 MILES.....	£5495

TOYOTA

06 56 NEW YARIS 1-3 T 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C BLACK 6000 MILES.....	£8995
06 06 NEW YARIS 1-3 T SPIRIT 3 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C SILVER 8000 MILES.....	£8495
05 55 YARIS VERSO T3 DR AUTO PAS SUNROOF CHAMPAGNE 6000 MILES.....	£8995
05 55 TOYOTA YARIS 1-3 T SPIRIT 3DR AUTO PAS SUPER BLACK 9000 MILES.....	£8495
05 05 YARIS VERSO T SPIRIT 3DR AUTO PAS AIR ALLOYS SILVER 14000MILES.....	£9495
05 05 TOYOTA YARIS 1-3 T SPIRIT 3DR AUTO PAS AIR/C SILVER 14000 MILES.....	£7495

NISSAN

07 07 NEW NISSAN NOTE 1-6 ACENTA AUTO PAS AIR/C BLUE 12000 MILES.....	£9995
07 07 NISSAN NOTE 1-6 SE 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C DARK BLUE 6000 MILES.....	£9995
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07 07 NISSAN NOTE 1-6 SE 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C SILVER 12000 MILES.....	£9995
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07 07 NISSAN NOTE 1-6 SE 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C SILVER 18000 MILES.....	£9995
07 07 NISSAN NOTE 1-6 SE 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C SILVER 21000 MILES.....	£9995
07 07 NISSAN NOTE 1-6 SE 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C SILVER 24000 MILES.....	£9995
07 07 NISSAN NOTE 1-6 SE 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C SILVER 27000 MILES.....	£9995
07 07 NISSAN NOTE 1-6 SE 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C SILVER 30000 MILES.....	£9995
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07 07 NISSAN NOTE 1-6 SE 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C SILVER 105000 MILES.....	£9995
07 07 NISSAN NOTE 1-6 SE 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C SILVER 108000 MILES.....	£9995
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07 07 NISSAN NOTE 1-6 SE 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C SILVER 120000 MILES.....	£9995
07 07 NISSAN NOTE 1-6 SE 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C SILVER 123000 MILES.....	£9995
07 07 NISSAN NOTE 1-6 SE 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C SIL	

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Official Government Test Environmental Data- Fuel Consumption Figures mpg (litres/100km): Astra Sport Hatch SXi 1.4i 16v 3dr: urban 35.3 (8.0), extra-urban 56.5 (5.0), combined 46.3 (6.1), CO₂ Emissions 146 g/km; Meriva Breeze Plus 1.6i 16v 5dr MPV: urban 31.7 (8.9), extra-urban 52.3 (5.4), combined 42.2 (6.7), CO₂ Emissions 159 g/km; Zafira Breeze Plus 1.6i 16v 5dr MPV: urban 30.1 (9.4), extra-urban 47.9 (5.9), combined 39.2 (7.2), CO₂ Emissions 172 g/km; Astra TwinTop Design 1.8i 16v: urban 28.2 (10.0), extra-urban 47.9 (5.9), combined 38.2 (7.4), CO₂ Emissions 177 g/km.

Models shown may have optional extras available at an extra cost. 4 Years 0% Finance available on selected Astra, Astra TwinTop, Tigra, Meriva, Zafira and Vectra models. Minimum deposit of 30% required. Finance by GMAC UK plc subject to status, applicants must be 18 or over. Available at participating retailers only. Offers apply to eligible new vehicles ordered or registered between 02.07.08 and 02.10.08, subject to availability, and are available to private individuals, Vauxhall Partners, and small businesses 1-24 (purchase only). All other sales categories are excluded. Offers may not apply to all retailer stocks. UK supplied vehicles only.

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IS200**

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CDTI Convertible Twin Top

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- ◆ Black/Black Leather
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YEAR	REG	MODEL	ENGINE	DOORS	COLOUR	MILEAGE	£	YEAR	REG	MODEL	ENGINE	DOORS	COLOUR	MILEAGE	£							
CORSA																						
2001	Y*	Corsa Comfort E/T	1.2	5	Aruba blue	62,300	2,995	2006	56	Movano	2.5	Silver	14,000	£1,495+VAT								
2004	04	Corsa Energy	1.2	5	Silver lightening	19,020	4,695	2007	57	Combo	1.3D CDTi	White	Delivery	£7495+VAT								
2005	05	Corsa Breeze	1.2	3	Silver	34,700	5,595	2008	08	Vivaro	2.0CDTi	Black	Delivery	£13,495+VAT								
2007	07	New Corsa Life	1.2	3	Silver lightening	12,100	6,995	2008	08	Vivaro	2.0CDTi	White	Delivery	£10,995+VAT								
2007	57	New Corsa SXi CDTi	1.7D	5	Star silver	8,800	10,995	2008	08	Vivaro	2.0CDTi	White	Delivery	£14,995+VAT								
SIGNUM																						
2003	03	Signum Elegance	2.2	5	Oyster	50,375	5,495	2008	08	Vivaro	2.0CDTi	Black	Delivery	£13,495+VAT								
2003	53	Signum Elegance Auto	2.2	5	Star silver	36,500	5,995	2008	08	Vivaro	2.0CDTi	White	Delivery	£11,495+VAT								
2007	57	Signum CDTi Exclusive Nav	1.9D	5	Star silver	9,950	14,995	2008	08	Vivaro	2.0CDTi	White	Delivery	£11,495+VAT								
MERIVA																						
2004	54	Meriva Enjoy	1.7D	5	Metallic green	22,000	6,495	2008	08	Vivaro	2.0CDTi	White	Delivery	£11,495+VAT								
2007	57	Meriva VXR	1.6	5	Arden blue	2,680	12,495	2007	57	Astravan	1.9CDTi	White	5,445	£7,995+VAT								
2008	08	Meriva Breeze	1.4	5	Black sapphire	3,550	9,995	2007	57	Astravan	1.9CDTi	Moonland	25,000	8,495+VAT								
AGILA																						
2001	51*	Agila Energy	1.2	5	Green tea	76,350	2,595	2007	57	Combo	1.3CDTi	White	3,400	£7,195+VAT								
ASTRA																						
2003	53	Astra Elegance Estate	2.2	5	Silver	42,000	4,995	2007	07	Combo	1.3CDTi	White	6,600	£6,495+VAT								
2005	54*	Astra CDTi SRI X pack	1.9D	5	Silver lightening	75,825	6,995	2005	55*	Vivaro	1.9CDTi	White	8,700	£7,995+VAT								
2005	05	Astra Club E/T	1.6	5	Silver lightening	19,500	6,695	2007	57	Vivaro	1.9CDTi	Red	57,000	£9,495+VAT								
2005	05	Astra Club E/T	1.6	5	Metallic green	7,300	6,695	2007	57	Movano	2.5CDTi	White	10,300	£12,995+VAT								
ZAFIRA																						
2003	53*	Zafira Elegance DTi	2.0	5	Black sapphire	66,350	5,995	2008	08	Astra SXi Sports Hatch	1.4	3	Ultra blue	33,000	7,395							
2003	53*	Zafira Club	1.8	5	Ultra blue	48,600	4,995	2008	08	Astra SXi Sports Hatch	1.6	3	Black	8,000	16,995							
2005	05A	Zafira Design	1.6	5	Silver lightening	36,280	6,695	2008	08	Astra SXi Sports Hatch	1.8	5	Black	6,000	10,995							
2005	05	Zafira Life	1.8	5	Ultra blue	38,250	6,695	2008	08	Astra Breeze CDTi	1.7D	5	Silver	7,000	10,295							
2005	05	Zafira Design	1.6	5	Star silver	39,000	6,495	2008	08	Astra Breeze Plus	1.6	5	Silver	7,000	10,695							
2005	55	New Zafira Life A/C	1.6	5	Hamm red	31,650	7,995	2004	04	Meriva Energy	1.6	5	Silver	44,000	5,295							
VECTRA																						
2005	05	Vectra Sri	2.2	5	Star silver	30,550	7,995	2008	08	Meriva Design MTA	1.6	5	Steel blue	TBA	12,695							
2007	07	Vectra Design	1.8	5	Star silver	12,650	9,650	2005	55	Vectra Exc iCDTi Est	1.9D	5	Star silver	21,000	8,250							
2007	07	Vectra Exclusive	1.8	5	Metro blue	10,690	8,175	2008	08	Vectra Exc iCDTi	1.9D	5	Silver	4,000	12,495							
2007	07	Vectra Exclusive + pack	1.8	5	Pomegranate red	4,675	9,995	2005	55	Zafira Club	1.6	5	Silver lightening	43,000	7,145							
2008	07	Vectra CDTi Exclusive Auto	1.9D	5	Ultra blue	5,350	12,995	2006	06	Zafira Active CDTi Auto	1.9D	5	Silver lightening	20,000	9,995							
NON VAUXHALL																						
2001	Y*	Ford Focus Zetec	1.6	3	Metallic blue	39,100	3,795	2008	08	Zafira Sri Ex pack Estate	1.9D	5	Silver lightening	8,000	16,995							
2004	04*	Ford Focus LX Est	1.6	5	Ice blue	46,850	5,695	*Non Network Q Vehicle														

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Learner Advisor Level 3
Salary £11,599 - £16,199
Reference JU10

The above post is an exciting opportunity for you to join our Matrix award winning Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG) team.

You will be required to work across all college campuses to actively support prospective and current learners to achieve their full academic and personal potential.

For further details please refer to the job description.
Closing Date is Friday 22 August 2008

Instrumental Tutors (Music)

Required for September 2008, to support the Music Department in the delivery of tuition in the following areas:
• Guitar • Woodwind

Applications are welcome from graduates of music or music education, and from candidates who hold other professional qualifications in music. Successful candidates will teach individual lessons or in small groups of 2/3 pupils. Lessons are 30 minute periods and successful candidates will be expected to address the individual needs of pupils. Instructors will be expected to teach from beginner level and should develop and lead small ensembles for public performances. Instructors will be employed on a peripatetic basis, meeting demand as required.

CVs and letters of application by post to the address above
FAO: Jennifer Spooner HR Manager or via
jenniferspooner@marloweacademy.co.uk.

You should state the post you are applying for, your principal instrument and your suitability for such a post.

Appointments are subject to an enhanced CRB check.
Closing date for applications: 29th August 2008
Interviews held: beginning of September 2008

Male or Female Support and Senior Support Worker

Vacancies available at our Residential Home in Sittingbourne & Sheerness

We Provide care for Adults with Learning Disability. NVQ Level 3 required for Senior Support position. Will need to have 6 months experience working with ALD. Clean British driving licence required.

Contact Administrative Manager Christine Morgan
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Starting salary £15,826 rising through total contribution pay to £16,627 per annum

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Transport Integration arranges transport for Kent residents including scholars and social services clients.

We require literate, numerate and highly organised administrators with knowledge of standard IT applications and the ability to use dedicated databases as tasks will include verifying and processing invoices, entering data and maintaining accurate records. The post involves contact with clients, suppliers and external agencies so you will need to demonstrate sound customer service skills along with the ability to use your initiative to ensure that work is completed on time and to a high standard within a busy office environment. Working within an integrated team, it is essential to demonstrate good communication skills whilst working under pressure and to tight deadlines.

For an informal discussion, please contact Tim Edwards on 01622 605400.

For an application form please call Gloria Turrell on 01622 605397 or email: csd.recruitment@kent.gov.uk quoting Ref: CM-08-062

Closing date: 26 August 2008.



www.kent.gov.uk/jobs



Accounting Technicians

Starting salary £20,061, with progression through contribution related pay to £22,825 per annum (pro rata for part time or term time)

Full time, part time and term time considered
Clover House, Whitstable

An exciting opportunity to be part of the Trading & Contract Management Unit within CFE Finance has arisen with a number of vacancies for Accounting Technicians.

You will have good communication, organisational and IT skills to support schools via the provision of contracted financial support packages. You will be responsible for delivering a range of monitoring and budget planning support, as well as the annual closing of accounts and the provision of generic financial advice and guidance to both Kent and Medway schools.

A knowledge of SIMS FMS6 accounting package would be beneficial. The ability to travel across a wide geographical area in a timely and flexible manner at various times of the day is also required.

Ref: CFE/08/0376

Closing date: Midday, 12th September 2008.

Interview date: w/c 29th September 2008.

Functional Skills Tutors

Starting salary £20,061, with progression through contribution related pay to £22,825 per annum

East and West Kent

KEY Training Services deliver an exciting range of innovative training programmes to people aged 14-upwards and is the largest work-based training provider in Kent.

As a Functional Skills Tutor your responsibilities will include the team teaching of effective and high quality Basic, Key Skills and Job Search training, across a range of ability groups.

You will have the opportunity to design and produce relevant training materials and to plan challenging and inspirational training. KEY are forward thinking in their approach to Key Skills/Skills for Life qualifications and delivery will take place in both formal and informal learning environments to both young people and adults.

Ideally, you will need to be qualified to either Literacy or Numeracy Level 4, with a teaching qualification or teaching experience. KEY provides excellent opportunities for professional and personal development.

You will be required to work at more than one training centre in the area in which you are based, so the ability to travel across a wide geographical area in a timely and flexible manner at various times of the day is essential.

This post is subject to an Enhanced Disclosure Application to the Criminal Records Bureau. Ref: CMY/08/0194

Closing date: Midday, 22nd August 2008.

To apply, visit www.kent.gov.uk/jobs Alternatively, please email recruitment.line@kent.gov.uk or call 0845 8247 904. Please quote the relevant reference number.



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Hours to suit.

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We manufacture and install various designs of stainless steel and aluminium items for the commercial and industrial market, from hospitals and prisons to shops and schools. We pride ourselves on our quality and determination to supply our products correctly and on time. We have the latest in MIG and TIG welding technology and operate from a new workshop on the Kingsnorth Industrial Estate.

If you are a self-motivated experienced tradesperson with the knowledge of fabricating and welding stainless steel and aluminium from 1.5mm thickness upwards, we have an opportunity for you. We can offer top rates, overtime and holiday pay to the successful applicant.

Please send a CV to the following address, fax or e-mail:

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 Telephone : 01634 255725 Facsimile : 01634 254427

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Canterbury

College

Canterbury College is a leading FE and HE College which offers opportunities and an environment in which our 800 staff and 12,000 learners can reach their potential, so we can achieve our goal of being one of the best Colleges by 2010. To support this, the College has been undergoing a £50 million re-development, which opened in January 2008. We are now developing plans for Phase 3, for completion in 2012.

International Manager 08/111

37 hrs per week, salary starting from £32,808 per annum

Head of Faculty Higher Education 08/112

37 hrs per week, salary starting from £40,821 per annum

Quality and Innovation Manager 08/113

37 hrs per week, salary starting from £36,365 per annum

Section Manager Dental, Nursing, Social Care & Counselling 06/110

37 hrs per week, salary starting from £32,808 per annum

Lecturer Teacher Education 08/114

7.4 hrs per week, salary range £17,816 – £25,545 pro rata per annum

Supply Lecturers are required in the following areas:

Various hours available, salary range £17,816 – £25,545 pro rata per annum

Public Services

Key Skills: Application of Number and ICT within Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Care

Drama Teachers to teach on vocational

BTEC Diploma courses in Performing Arts levels 1 – 3. S/Drama

Performing Arts – to teach on vocational BTEC Diploma courses levels 1 – 3

S/Ps

S/KS

S/PA

S/TP

European Union

HR Advisors 08/119

37 hrs per week, salary starting from £18,375 per annum

Pensions & Benefits Clerk 08/118

37 hrs per week, salary starting from £16,364 per annum

HR Administrator 08/121

37 hrs per week, salary starting from £14,535 per annum

International Administrator 08/115

18.5 hrs per week, salary starting from £14,535 pro rata per annum

Train to Gain Administrator 08/116

18.5 hrs per week, salary starting from £14,535 pro rata per annum

Project Co-ordinator – College Redevelopment 08/117

37 hrs per week, salary starting from £18,375 per annum

Supply Trainer Demonstrator with skills in one or more Stage Craft techniques: Props, Set Construction, Stage Lighting and Sound

Various hours available, salary starting from £18,375 pro rata per annum

For an application pack please visit www.cant-col.ac.uk or call the Personnel Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answerphone) quoting the post reference.

The closing date for the above posts is Thursday 21 August 2008 at 12 noon.

Staff benefits include:

- Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme
- Sports Hall and Gym
- Proximity to Mainbus / Train Stations
- Generous Holiday Allowance
- Close to City Centre
- Staff Discount Scheme

Canterbury College is an equal opportunity employer



Sheppey

College

Sheppey College is part of Canterbury College. Canterbury College is a leading FE and HE College which offers opportunities and an environment in which our 800 staff and 12,000 learners can reach their potential, so we can achieve our goal of being one of the best Colleges by 2010. To support this, the College has been undergoing a £50 million re-development, which opened in January 2008. We are now developing plans for Phase 3, for completion in 2012.

Supply Lecturers required in the following areas:

Various hours available, salary range £17,816 – £25,545 pro rata per annum

Bookkeeping and Accounting

SH/BKA

The closing date for the above post is Thursday 21 August 2008 at 12 noon.

For an application pack please visit www.cant-col.ac.uk or call the Personnel Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answerphone) quoting the post reference.

Staff benefits include:

- Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme
- Generous Holiday Allowance
- Proximity to Mainbus / Train Stations
- Staff Discount Scheme



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PLANT TRAINING INSTRUCTORS

The Royal School of Military Engineering (RSME)

Wainscott, Chatham

£28,200-£30,300 pa + benefits

TQ Education & Training Ltd, part of the Holdfast Training Services Consortium, is partnering with the RSME to train Royal Engineers within the Construction Engineering School. We require a number of **Plant Training Instructors** with the necessary skills and aptitude to successfully train military personnel in the operation and maintenance of a variety of plant equipment.

As part of these exciting new opportunities, you will provide theoretical and practical instruction on construction plant and earthmoving equipment including practical operating techniques, equipment care and maintenance, servicing and supporting theory lessons. You will also assist in invigilating, marking theory examinations and practical assessments and compiling student records.

In order to successfully carry out this role you must hold a UK driving licence and a CPC Operator Card and must have several years' operating experience on a variety of earthmoving and construction plant. You must be willing to work outdoors and possess Health & Safety Awareness in a Civil Engineering environment. You should have excellent interpersonal skills, must be highly motivated and able to work unsupervised. Formal instructor training (either Forces or Civilian) and Military trained Plant Operator Mechanic (Class 1) qualifications are advantageous but not essential. A Category C+E driving licence and formal assessor qualification are also beneficial to the role. In return we offer a competitive salary and benefits package, dependent upon qualifications and skills.

For full details of the role and the requirements, please see our 'Jobs' page at www.tq.com.

To apply please send your CV/letter of application to hr@tq.com or post to the HR Dept, TQ Education & Training Ltd, Garden Court, Lockington Hall, Main Street, Lockington, Derbyshire DE74 2SJ. For informal enquiries please telephone Jeanette Wilton on 01509 678442.



TERMS AND CONDITIONS

KOS MEDIA (PUBLISHING) LTD TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- Advertisements will be accepted only on the express condition that the advertiser warrants that the advertisement does not in any way contravene any existing legislation and in particular the Trade and Description Act 1968 and the Consumer Credit Act 1974.
- It is the responsibility of all advertisers to ensure that all advertising meets all forms of government legislation and particularly the Trade and Description Act 1968 and the Consumer Credit Act 1974.
- All rates quoted are subject to VAT at the rate currently in force at the time the advertisement appears.
- All rates within the annual advertising agreement will be rated protected for 12 months from the first date of publication under the signed agreement.
- Any password or code given by an advertiser on an application to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd by the advertiser or any associated third party will be valid or refused. All passwords and security supplied to the advertiser by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd in relation to the use of the posting of material via the media owner's online administration tool will be the responsibility of the advertiser. The advertiser is responsible for any damage or loss of material or password by either the media owner or any third party given password privilages by the advertiser.
- KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd reserves the right to change passwords intermittently to ensure security and to prevent misuse of the system by unauthorised personnel.
- Payment and payment terms for television/photograph or film for advertising promotions or otherwise within the various forms of media in print, online and moving film offered by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must have been sought, verified or paid for by the advertiser where applicable. Approval or permission must have been obtained from the media owner over-ride or otherwise. The advertiser shall be able to verify any statement or claim made by the media owner in relation to their products/services promoted within any of the media offerings belonging to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd.
- Where simultaneous advertisement occurs for whatever reason, the advertiser will be charged to the highest full continuing rate where it relates to the media owner's printed publications. This will NOT apply to full-page advertisements, which remain full pages even after shrinkage.
- KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd reserves the right to omit or refuse any advertisement/communication without notice or explanation. In these circumstances the advertiser shall be compelled to include any person or organisation placing an advertisement on behalf of another.
- A guarantee of insertion cannot be given and the media owners shall not be liable for any loss or damage caused by any error inaccuracy in the marketing communication set out within the media owner's printed publications or omission exceed the price charged by the media owners for that advertisement.
- No liability is accepted for any loss or damage allowed to have arisen through delay in forwarding replies to Box numbers, however caused, nor for the loss or damage to any artwork supplied.
- The accuracy of the information in your media messages with KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must be made in writing to the accounts department within 10 days of publishing.
- KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd accept no responsibility for any errors or omissions.
- KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd has the right to cancel the advertiser's annual membership without notice should the advertiser deliberately publish out of date material or content on any of the media owner's online digital platforms. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd will seek to recover, in full, all outstanding invoices in relation to the signed annual membership as a result of the advertiser's negligence in this regard and reserves the right to claim damages for any potential vexatious action via the advertiser.
- Advertisers are requested to check their advertisements after the first insertion. The media owner will not be responsible for any errors on subsequent insertions, which may have been altered in some manner in the process.
- A minimum of one month's notice must be given in writing for cancellation of the signed annual advertiser's agreement. Upon cancellation, all discounts from KOS Media's standard effective media advertising rate card (July 2008-June 2009) will be discontinued and applied to the total value of the media owner's annual membership rate card (July 2008-June 2009). This will reflect the revised length of commitment denoted by the advertiser's written cancellation. Any charges, refunds or costs in relation to the production of the advertiser's TV commercial for the commitment set out within the advertiser's agreement will be met in full by the advertiser. The media owner is not responsible for any cancellation fees or charges for June 2009. Discounts will be repaid and any refunds or surcharges will be paid by either party within 30 days of the advertiser's written cancellation. Any other advertising placed must give a minimum of seven days' written notice and any discounts given for series bookings will be forfeited by the advertiser upon cancellation.
- Seasonal contracts. Your professional classified advertisements or any uplift advertising within the annual contract with the advertiser will be invoked in full - at rate card - on receipt of any written cancellation of this contract within the 12-month period.
- All uplift advertisements must be booked in at least three months in advance of publication and will be subject to availability. All dates booked will be on a first-come, first-served basis.
- The advertiser must agree to the date and time of filming of any online TV programme or video supplied by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd within the advertiser's agreement. (Platinum, Gold, Silver Standard of Commercial). Should, for any reason, the advertiser not be available at the agreed time without giving sufficient notice (at least 48 hours), KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd reserves the right to charge for any TV produced at an alternative published hour. The advertiser will be responsible for any additional costs incurred in this respect. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd will seek to recover, in full, all outstanding invoices in relation to its TV commercial or photographic imagery included in the advertiser's agreement. The advertiser will approve and accept that there are only two choices of voice-over and music offered by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd. Should an advertiser wish to use other voice over or music, they must pay the responsibility of the advertiser to pay the PRS rights should they be required to do so. Any changes or failure to approve the TV production by the deadlines agreed between both parties will result in KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd being given permission by the advertiser to replace TV commercial with pictures or stills supplied by the advertiser. The advertiser will be responsible for any costs to supply a TV commercial produced at their own cost and risk outside of this agreement. The advertiser also accepts and agrees that this action would not reduce the value or cost of their membership. Any cost of changes required to the TV commercial within the advertiser's agreement will be borne by the advertiser at the time of this agreement.
- Each advertiser accepts that their ranking and position within KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd's search engine will be equal to those within their category (Platinum, Gold, Silver, Bronze, etc) other than they will be ranked based on the search engine criteria of optimisation within their level (Platinum, Gold, Silver or Bronze).
- Any delivery claim made by the advertiser or discount vouchers published within the print or online media of KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd and any action as a result of the public or otherwise is the sole responsibility of the advertiser. Any claims against the media owner that are KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must be referred to the advertiser.
- All credit account due for payment shall be notified to the Advertiser by the 30th day following the date of the invoice, time to be of the essence. All sums due to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd or RBS Factoring shall be paid in full, and the Advertiser shall have no right of set off or deduction. In the event that the Advertiser fails to pay the amount due is not received by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd or RBS Factoring by the due date, the media owner shall be entitled to suspend all further advertising until payment is received and/or terminate the contract and make any surcharges for breaking the contract.
- At the date of payment received by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd by the due date, the media owner reserves the right to charge interest on all overdue balances calculated on a daily basis at the rate of two per cent above the minimum lending of National Westminster Bank Plc from time to time in force.
- Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in these terms and conditions or the contract of sale, the Advertiser is responsible to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd (whatever reason), the whole amount of monies due from the Advertiser to the date of cessation shall fall due for immediate payment.
- The Advertiser will be liable for all costs incurred by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd in recovering any debts not paid by the due date.
- Payments may be made by cheque, credit transfer, direct debit, cash and any major credit card.
- Any discount which KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd may have agreed with the Advertiser shall be forfeited in the event of failure by the Advertiser to complete the contract to the satisfaction of the media owner.
- Advertising Agency commission will be allowed to those advertisers recognised by the Newspaper Society, but shall not exceed ten per cent and will be subject to the terms of that recognition. This commission will not be paid if the Advertising Agency fails to meet the terms of the recognition.
- In the event of termination and certain categories as laid down by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must be prepaid.
- The Advertiser agrees to indemnify KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd in respect of all costs, damages and other charges imposed upon the media owners or any of the companies within the KOS Media Group as the result of legal action or threatened legal action or threatened legal action from the publication of any advertisement or advertising promotion.
- An order for an advertisement shall amount to acceptance of these terms and conditions, and any condition placed on an order by an Advertiser shall be null and void.
- Copyright in advertisements produced wholly or partially by the media owners belongs to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd. Advertisers may not reproduce such advertisement without the media owner's written consent.

All terms and conditions stated above are in place to protect the advertiser, the media owner and the communities they serve within the public domain as well as the beneficial rights of individuals and organisations. KOS Media will endeavour to always act reasonably in applying its terms and conditions.

Effective from June 2008

Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR
Tel 01303 817040 Fax 01303 817004
Email: info@kosmedia.co.uk



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One of the UK's leading book producers, based in Chatham, Kent requires two Colour Room Support Machine Assistants to work on a 3-day weekend shift. Candidates must have print or paper handling experience.
Rate of pay £8.50 per hour = Day shift
£10 per hour = Night shift
Send CVs by e-mail to cbarnes@cpi-group.co.uk by 22 August 2008

Melbourne House Dental Practice - Herne Bay requires a **Full Time Dental Nurse**
Experience preferable but not essential. As training can be provided. Successful candidates will need to be motivated, willing to learn a good team member and be able to use their initiative.
Please call 01227 374454 for an application form



HOUSEKEEPERS WANTED - MILSTEAD
Property letting agent seeks reliable and conscientious persons, to look after beautifully furnished holiday home sleeping up to 18 guests, let throughout the year. Duties will include preparing the properties for guests and laundering of linens and towels. Hours will vary dependent on bookings. Changeover days may vary and will include some Saturdays and Sundays. Must live within 20 minutes' drive of property and have own transport. Ideally suited to a small team of 3 but individuals may apply. For further details call, Jill at Rural Retreats on 01386 702622.

We are a unique family business selling fantastic ready meals and puddings in our own shops throughout the South East of England, our national online delivery service and through our wholesale business selling to farm shops and independent food producers and we're growing fast.

We have some exciting positions that have been created to help us in our expanding business

Temporary and permanent vacancies are available in all these positions.

Chefs

£7.18 during probation then £8.42 per hour

All our dishes are prepared to the highest quality following our tried and tested recipes. We are looking for a chef who has either got their NVQ in cooking or has experience of working in a fast paced catering environment.

Prep Chefs

£6.48 during probation then £7.18 per hour

We are looking for someone who has good knife skills to cut and prepare all the meat and vegetables to the specification that is required. Ideally you will have an NVQ in cooking with previous experience working in a fast paced catering environment.

Finishing Assistants

Shift from 2pm to 10pm

£6.22 during probation then £6.48 per hour

Our Finishing Assistants have the extremely important job of making sure that every dish we make leaves the Kitchen looking perfect. They are responsible for dishing up the food, weighing the contents and then sealing, labelling and boxing the finished dishes. You will need to be numerate, reliable and possess great team skills, with the ability to work quickly in demanding conditions. Kitchen/food experience is an advantage but is not essential.

Kitchen Porters

£6.22 during probation then £6.48 per hour

Our Porters are responsible for ensuring that the Kitchen is absolutely spotless and that all of the Kitchen equipment is clean and kept in the correct place. It is the perfect job for someone who is keen to start a career working within a Kitchen. Experience of working in a Food/Kitchen environment would be useful, but in no way essential.

Please send your CV to Sarah or Jodie in Personnel at COOK, Eurolink Way, Sittingbourne, ME10 3HH. If you need further information please call 01795 471700.

www.cookfood.net COOK
The COOK Kitchen, Eurolink Way, Sittingbourne, ME10 3HH

HOST FAMILIES

Single or shared rooms urgently needed. Canterbury area. Please call Ann on 01227 462 016 or email info@stpeters.co.uk

A2 CABS LTD Full & Part Time TAXI DRIVER'S Required

Please contact Elaine 01795 431500

Domestic Cleaners Required

Whitstable/Herne Bay & Canterbury area
16 hours per week
Day and evening
Hours - between 9am-5pm
Car and experience essential
Tel: 01227 363242

Full Time Dental Nurse

Required for Sittingbourne practice. It would be possible for training to be given to right applicant.

Apply in writing with full CV to Moira Lupin, 20 London Road, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME10 1NA

Scissor Sisters MAIDSTONE

Qualified Beautician and Nail Technician required ASAP

Contact Laura on 01622 755833

Glendale Appointment

Coblands Nurseries Ltd

Seasonal Nursery Assistants – Tree Team

Based in Tonbridge

£5.75 per hour based on a 40 hour week

This is an excellent opportunity for anyone who enjoys working outside and has a keen interest in commercial crop production.

The position is available from September 2008 April 2009.

This role will involve maintaining, planting and lifting of large field-grown trees and specimen shrubs from our sites around Tonbridge/Hadlow area.

The ideal candidate will be able to lift heavy plants, be self motivated, have a positive outlook on life and work well as part of a team. It would be desirable for candidates to have worked in the horticultural or agricultural industry before, although this is not essential.

If you feel you meet the above criteria, please send your CV and letter of application to Jo Dury, Coblands Nurseries, Trench Road, Tonbridge, Kent, TN11 9NG or email j.dury@coblands.co.uk

Closing Date: Friday 5th September 2008 www.coblands.co.uk
Glendale is an equal opportunities employer



Dover COLLEGE INFANT & JUNIOR DEPARTMENT

Co-educational school for children aged 3-11

Required for September 2008

Reception/Foundation Stage Teacher

Come and join our vibrant and energetic school.

Full CV to The Headmaster, Dover College Effingham Crescent, Dover, CT17 9RH

Closing date: Wednesday 20th August

Tel: 01303 269670 Fax: 01303 269206

Email: headmaster@dovercollege.org.uk
www.dovercollege.org.uk

Dover College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. This post is subject to an enhanced disclosure application to the Criminal Records Bureau - Registered Charity No 307856.

PUBLIC NOTICES

In the High Court of Justice
Chancery Division Companies Court
Court Case No. 6762 of 2008

FUTURE HOMES (UK) MANAGEMENT LIMITED

Notice is hereby given that Geoffrey Paul Rowley and Simon Elliott Glyn of Vantis Business Services, PO Box 2653 99 Station Street, Stretford, Manchester M34 6PT have been appointed Joint Administrators of the above named company on 12/08/2008.

GEOFFREY PAUL ROWLEY and

SIMON ELLIOTT GLYN,
Joint Administrators

(IP Nos. 8919 and 9159)

T234649

TENDER FOR CORONER'S REMOVALS - KENT & MEDWAY (10 GEOGRAPHICAL CONTRACT AREAS)

Kent County Council on behalf of HM Coroner wishes to invite tender submissions for Coroner's Removals throughout Kent and Medway. The contract is for the removal of bodies from place of death to a hospital mortuary. The contract is of four years duration commencing 1 February 2009.

Tenders are invited from funeral directors who must have the facilities to be at the place of death within one hour from receipt of request to attend. Funeral directors must have been trading for at least three years and must be able to provide a 24 hour, 365 days a year service.

Organisations wishing to apply for tender documentation should apply via the advert on www.businessportal.sece.gov.uk

If you are experiencing problems, please email eo1@kent.gov.uk or apply in writing to Strategic Procurement Unit, 3.21 Sessions House, County Road, Maidstone ME14 1XQ.

Deadline for tender responses:

12 noon on Monday, 22 September 2008.

This contract notice was published

In the Official Journal of the European Union on 01 August 2008.

Connexions Services - Commissioning and Monitoring

Project Co-ordinator

Starting salary £40,705, with progression through contribution related pay to £47,675 per annum

Sessions House, Maidstone

This is an exciting opportunity to co-ordinate the commissioning of Connexions Services within Kent. You will monitor the current service specification until April 2010 and plan and commission Connexions Services beyond that date in accordance with the Kent Children's Trust Commissioning Framework and EU legislation for tendering.

Working closely with the Connexions Partnership Kent and Medway, as well as 23 Local Children's Services Partnerships, schools, voluntary sector and senior officers in the Children Families and Education and Communities Directorates, you will have excellent communication skills and experience of managing contracts.

Degree qualified or equivalent, you will also possess experience in services for children and young people with substantial knowledge of data interpretation and manipulation to meet monitoring requirements.

This post is subject to an Enhanced Disclosure Application to the Criminal Records Bureau.

To apply, visit www.kent.gov.uk/jobs Alternatively, please email recruitment.line@kent.gov.uk or call 0845 8247 904. Please quote reference number CFE/08/0354.

Closing date: Midday, 22 August 2008.



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BUSINESS BRIEFS

Website nominations wanted for awards

DEAL e-commerce firm Icelab has launched its own 2008 Ecommerce In Kent award.

It is inviting nominations for own shopping cart sites, web shops, or any other shopping cart sites based in Kent to info@ecommerceinkent.co.uk. The deadline is Tuesday, September 30.

The winning site owner will receive a two-night luxury midweek spa break, with dinner and bed and breakfast at Walletts Court Hotel.

The award will be judged by Caroline Chambers, of Channel Chamber of Commerce; Loris Loudon, of Hall Place Business Centre, Canterbury Christchurch University; Simon Teague, of Lashings World XI/Javelin Business Strategies; and David Bentley, of Business Link.

Roadside chain reports summer visitors boost

ROADSIDE restaurant chain Little Chef says there has been an increase in sales since mid-July due to the increase in Brits holidaying at home this year.

Little Chef, which celebrates its 50th birthday this year and has many sites in Kent, reports an average of an eight per cent rise in sales since the start of the school summer holidays.

Reasons are a combination of more cars on the road and a raised profile since the chain launched a marketing drive earlier this year and announced its partnership with Michelin-starred chef Heston Blumenthal.

Chief executive Ian Pegler said: "We expect the numbers to continue to rise during the rest of the holiday period."

Takeover jobs 'are safe'

STAFF at 28 stores in Kent belonging to supermarket chain Somerfield, which has been taken over by the Co-operative Group in a £1.57 billion deal, have been told their jobs are safe.

Somerfield's private equity owners – Barclays Capital, Apax Partners, property tycoon Robert Tchenguiz and Icelandic bank Kaupthing – bought the group in 2005 for £1.2 billion.

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MAKING HISTORY: View the new video for Chatham Dockyard

Head them off at the pass...

THE number of cowboy builders and employers of casual labour trading without insurance has risen sharply in recent months.

It is estimated that one in five tradespeople in Kent are risking heavy fines by working without cover.

Research by small business insurer Insurantz, a division of the Jardine LloydThompson Group, shows that thousands of uninsured companies are risking fines of up to £2,500 a day and even negligence claims against them. And many don't even know their statutory obligations.

The credit crunch has put thousands of construction jobs at risk, and tradesmen, from plumbers to plasterers, are increasingly expected to seek out *ad hoc* independent jobs – often working at a number of locations.

But if they operate without public liability and statutory employer's liability insurance, they'll be putting themselves on the line.

Julia Evans, chief executive of the National Federation of Builders, said: "As conditions become increasingly tough for smaller firms, Kent business owners will naturally want to cut down on overheads.

"But operating without adequate insurance cover exposes them to far greater levels of risk than a downturn."

Another consideration is damage or injury caused to third parties. Although some casual workers will be covered by main contractor's insurance, they may still need to carry public liability cover against damage to a third party property or injury through negligence.

Ms Evans said: "You cannot legally trade without employer's liability insurance, meaning you could face huge penalties or even prison if you fail to ensure you have this cover."

"Having no public liability insurance also makes you personally liable for being sued – meaning your own assets are at risk as well as your business's."

James Pickering, managing director of Insurantz, said: "Our research has revealed

■ BY TONY PATEY

that 29 per cent of small businesses run by tradespeople from Kent aren't aware of the statutory need for employer's liability if they employ anyone either on a full-time or casual basis.

"Failure in not taking out cover could result in fines of up to £2,500 a day and the potential of crippling costs for damages if anyone employed is injured. British builders must take action to make sure that they can trade safely."

Increasingly, small businesses and sole traders are using online services to make their lives quicker and easier. Tax returns are now completed online and Datamonitor research has recently highlighted that employer's liability is the type of cover most likely to be bought online.

Mr Pickering added: "Employer's and public liability are among the easiest of policies to buy."



KEEP ME COVERED: Cowboy builders could be riding for a fall – and heavy fines – if they operate without insurance

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No-show Spitfires let down the travelling hordes



PACE IN THE PACK: Robbie Joseph's display was one positive for Kent

County take ECB to task over ruling

KENT are hoping to bring about a change in the England and Wales Cricket Board's regulations after high winds stopped play in last Tuesday's game at Canterbury.

Gusts of more than 40mph prevented the temporary floodlights from being used in the Pro40 match against Leicestershire.

As a result the umpires had no choice but to abandon the match just six overs into the visitors' reply.

Fans were unhappy the game was not shortened or started early so it could be finished without the use of lights, but neither are permitted.

The club have begun talks with the ECB to bring about a change to prevent a similar scenario in future.

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Final hurdle seems to be just too much

KENT'S defeat against Essex continued their poor record at Lord's.

Saturday's Friends Provident Trophy final was the first appearance of any kind in a Lord's final for 11 years, when Kent were hammered by Surrey in the Benson & Hedges Cup final.

In total, Kent have won just three finals in 11 appearances, losing on their last seven visits.

Their last triumph in a final at Lord's was in the 1978 Benson & Hedges Cup, when Bob Woolmer's 79 helped them to a six-wicket victory over Derbyshire.



Thousands of Kent Spitfires fans flocked to the home of cricket on Saturday morning for the county's first Lord's appearance in 11 years.

By the evening, many were probably wondering why they had bothered.

From the moment Kent captain Rob Key was wrongly given out for a phantom edge in the fifth over, the Spitfires handed the initiative to the Essex Eagles, who did not let go.

Key's dismissal was harsh, but none of the other nine batsmen who followed him back to the famous pavilion could blame misfortune.

Joe Denly was bowled by the impressive Graham Napier in the following over as the Spitfires were reduced to 19-2.

Martin van Jaarsveld and Justin

CRICKET

■ BY DAVID PRITCHARD

Kent Spitfires 214 all out (50 overs)

Essex Eagles 218-5 (48.5 overs)

Kemp steadied the innings briefly until the latter was bowled attempting to smash former Kent bowler David Masters out of the park. Darren Stevens, Geraint Jones and Azhar Mahmood also got out to poor shots when the situation needed them to knuckle down.

At 100-6 the contest looked embarrassingly one-sided, but van Jaarsveld (58), Ryan McLaren (63) and Yasir Arafat (27)

at least gave the Spitfires attack something to defend.

The Eagles had the luxury of knowing they could win without needing to take risks. After Mahmood made some amends for his poor show with the bat by dismissing both openers, Robbie Joseph briefly worried Essex.

The 26-year-old bowled with aggression and took the prize wickets of England pair Ravi Bopara and Alastair Cook. He later removed James Foster, but it did not spark the flurry of wickets Kent so desperately needed.

The match was eventually decided by Grant Flower, whose unbeaten 70 from 97 balls showed, in an age increasingly dominated by Twenty20 cricket, what can be achieved with patience and guile.



GOING, GOING, GONE: Joe Denly is bowled by Graham Napier to begin the Spitfires' batting problems on a disappointing day at Lord's as Kent struggled, eventually making just 214

Skipper berates team's performance with bat

DEJECTED Kent captain Rob Key could not hide his frustration after the Spitfires lost their second final in less than a month with a limp display on Saturday.

Several batsmen gave their wickets away as Kent were bowled out for 214 in the Friends Provident Trophy final.

Essex Eagles reached their victory target with relative ease in the 49th over to seal a five-wicket victory.

The defeat for Kent came exactly three weeks after narrowly losing the Twenty20 Cup final against Middlesex.

After the game Key was in no mood for diplomacy and felt the side would have to bounce back quickly to avoid ending a promising season empty-handed.

He said: "Individually, we need to start performing. A lot of times in cricket when you lose a couple of games everyone says 'Is it the

CRICKET

■ BY DAVID PRITCHARD

warm-ups, is it this or is it that?', but it's not.

"Individually, you have got to sort your game out. If you're not scoring runs, find a way of doing it. I don't mean go to the nets every minute, just go and get some runs."

"I don't care how, just go and do it."

The Spitfires captain was unhappy with most aspects of his side's performance, but he was in no doubt that it was the mistakes made with the bat which were the most costly.

A succession of players were dismissed trying extravagant shots which were completely out of touch with the situation.

Key said: "Losing's not great when you have given everything you can give, but when you play that badly with the bat it's a waste of time, really."

"Turning up after all the build-up and everything, and we go and bat like that – it's a joke."

"We were just brainless with the shots we played. I know it's hero and villain and you can say 'Well, if I had hit it for four or six, then everyone would have clapped...' but they didn't."

"It was a tough wicket and how many of us were out defending? Not many. I just think we weren't very smart."

"The whole thing with one-day cricket is you go out and assess conditions as quickly as you can and you try to work out what a good score is. I know we all want to hit the ball for four and six, but sometimes you have just got to hang in there and settle for 250 or 230, or otherwise you are going to come unstuck."

Key's men get back to County Championship action today at Canterbury with the visit of Lancashire. The title race is wide open, with Kent in contention to win their first championship in 30 years.

• Email sports@kosmedia.co.uk

Stimson angered by player's bad attitude

JUST one week into the season Gillingham manager Mark Stimson has admitted the internal problems which plagued the squad last season have resurfaced.

Speaking after Saturday's 1-0 defeat to Luton, the Priestfield boss revealed there was one unnamed player who was upsetting the unity in the camp.

Stimson spent much of last season trying to move on a number of senior players who he felt were a disruptive influence.

It was believed they had all left the squad, but he was unhappy one player did not come into the changing room after the defeat.

Stimson said: "The most important thing I believe is togetherness. We are 99.9 per cent there. Every single player, except one, who is contracted to the club was in the changing room at the end."

Unmarked

"Some were asked and some were not, but six took on their own back to be in because it hurts, but one didn't. That one person can spoil the rest. I don't expect the supporters to care about that, but if you have been with a team that has won something everybody has to be together. That one can get into two or three people's heads and cause problems. I thought it was gone and the situation has come up again."

Garry Richards missed Saturday's game with a slight hamstring strain, with

FOOTBALL

■ BY DAVID PRITCHARD

Gillingham 0 Luton Town 1

Tottenham youngster Leigh Mills coming into the starting line-up for his debut.

The only goal of the game came in the third minute, when Sam Parkin rose unmarked to head Luton in front.

Despite rallying in the second half, Gills struggled to create many clear openings.

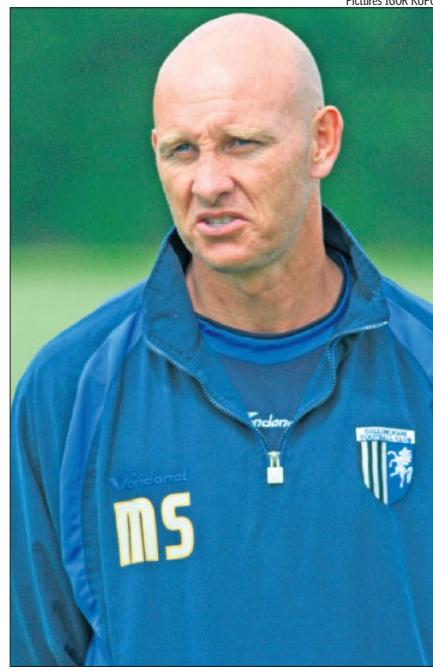
The closest they came to an equaliser was in the 71st-minute when Gary Mulligan's shot was cleared off the line and Hatters goalkeeper Dean Brill then denied Simeon Jackson and Tyrone Berry.

The home fans booed the team off the pitch and Stimson acknowledged if the poor form continued he would come under increasing pressure.

He said: "I am not stupid, if we don't win the next two games there will be people banging on the windows calling for my head. That is part and parcel of the job. I am confident something will click and when it does we will be fine."

Last week the Gills boss made a group of players available for loan as he looks to free up some space in the wage bill to bring in new players before the transfer window closes at the end of the month.

There has been no interest so far in Nicky Southall, the highest profile of the group, but Stuart Thurgood is close to leaving for a club in the Conference.



UPSET: Gills boss Mark Stimson believes there is a disruptive player in his squad who could cause problems

Dragons' success gets recognition from peers

RUGBY

MEDWAY Dragons' outstanding first season has been recognised by the region's clubs who unanimously voted them as Club of the Year at the London & the South Rugby League Junior Awards.

The club was only formed earlier this year and has become a runaway success. It is now the biggest junior rugby league club in the South East and several players are already playing in regional competitions.

The Kent club took the biggest prize of the night after the area's 40 other clubs all voted for the Dragons.

Efforts

Top players Gavin Hyder and Luke Edwards made the shortlist for Player of the Year in their age group, with both finishing runners-up.

Chairman John Stanforth and junior football rep Andy Dalrymple were presented with Volunteer of the Year awards for their roles in establishing and developing the club.

Head coach Martin Coyd also scooped the Coordinator Award for his efforts.



WINNERS: Medway Dragons accept their club award at Harlequins' The Stoop

Stanforth said: "This award and the individual honours are a recognition of the amazing efforts of over 140 players and 50 volunteers at the Dragons who have all played a part of an incredible start for a new club. We have gone beyond anyone's wildest dreams in just six months."

"The standards on and off the field, the coaching, the welfare and the performance of the players have been simply wonderful.

"It is a proud day for everyone involved and we have only just begun."

Chats make hard work of getting winning start

FOOTBALL

Chatham Town 1 Ilford 0

DARREN Smith scored a late penalty to give an out of sorts Chatham Town a winning start to the new season at home to Ilford.

Windy conditions at Maidstone Road meant the Chats were unable to replicate the fluency they had shown in pre-season, but Smith's 80th-minute spot-kick made sure they began with victory.

Town boss Steve Binks was happy his side took maximum points despite not playing well.

He said: "I'm delighted to get the three points because it was a case of digging in and trying to grind out that first goal. We played some good football, but didn't really create many clear cut chances."

With first choice goalkeeper James Tedder on holiday, young stopper James Tedder was handed the number one jersey.

Chats began well, but Danny Larkin was forced off with an injury after only 15 minutes, replaced by the experienced Steve Best.

Despite the hosts' dominance



FIGHTING FIT: Mark Brooks (left) in action during Chatham's win on Saturday

the game looked to be heading for frustrating a goalless draw, until Justin Ascheri's cross was handled in the 80th minute.

Smith stepped up and confidently dispatched the penalty, which proved the difference between the sides.

Town played Wingate & Finchley last night before two games this weekend in a busy start to the season.

Binks said: "We have four games in ten days which is going to test the sides without strength in depth, but we have that now."

"It's good to get playing, pre-season friendlies are good, but there's nothing like getting competitive games under your belt."



STRONG: Dame Kelly Holmes believes Lisa Dobriskey has the mental strength to deal with the occasion

Dame Kelly backs Dobriskey to shine

OLYMPICS/ATHLETICS

DOUBLE Olympic champion Dame Kelly Holmes believes Kent's 1500m medal hope Lisa Dobriskey is strong enough to deal with the expectation and the challenge of her first Olympics.

The 24-year-old reigning Commonwealth champion from Ashford has been in the form of her life this season, winning the Great Britain Trials and the London Grand Prix last month. Before leaving for the Team GB holding camp in Macau, she shattered her personal best by eight seconds in a mixed race during training.

The Beijing games are Dobriskey's first Olympics and Holmes has warned the pressure will be huge. She believes focusing on each round is the key to be successful in the pressure-cooker environment.

Holmes said: "The Olympics is completely different to any other competition and you have to treat it that way."

Lisa will have to keep her feet on the ground, which can be very difficult to do at your first games. I have seen her, though, and think she has the head to deal with the occasion. She will be happy to make the final, but in the final anything can happen.

"Your first Olympics can be overwhelming, especially when you see the Olympic village, where all the world's best athletes stay. As a young athlete it can be quite daunting, so Lisa will have to deal with that."

Holmes competed in three Olympic Games, winning gold in the 800m and 1500m in Athens 2004, so is familiar with competing in a packed Olympic arena. Although it will be difficult at first, she believes Dobriskey will thrive in the atmosphere.

She added: "There aren't enough words to describe what Lisa will be going through. Firstly the nerves hit you, which is quite terrifying, but you have to put that to the back of your mind."

"Stepping out into the stadium with the crowd is amazing and one of the best experiences in athletics."

"Then there is pressure and expectation on you to perform as a potential medallist, which Lisa will have to deal with. It is a great experience which she will definitely learn from."

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Gills boss Mark Stimson talks about his plans for the transfer window



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